



Jordan-N. Yemeni talks begin

AMMAN (Petra) — A preparatory Jordanian-North Yemeni committee began meetings Monday in Amman in preparation for meetings of the joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee. The Jordanian side was led by Industry and Trade Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqqaf and the Yemeni side was led by the director general of the Arab and Islamic Department at the Foreign Ministry Yashua Al Iryani. The committee discussed spheres of bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, health, commerce, and trade exchange. Saqqaf stressed the importance of the meetings the committee will hold and noted Jordan's desire to meet North Yemeni needs to expertise, doctors, and teachers. He added that these meetings fall within the framework of the relations between the two countries whose bases His Majesty King Hussein and President Ali Abdullah Saleh had laid. The preparatory committee consists of representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs, education, planning, industry, trade, in addition to the central bank and the civil services offices in both countries. The North Yemeni side to the meetings arrived in Amman Monday.

Khartoum plans new peace moves

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — A Sudanese cabinet minister visiting Ethiopia's capital said Monday that Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's government plans a new peace initiative with the rebel southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Muharak Al-Fadil Al Mahadi, minister for energy, mining, economic and foreign trade, told the AP the agreement signed in September by the rebel army and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) had positive elements but also some points which have to be developed, clarified and abrogated. Mahadi did not elaborate on his government's proposed move. Rebel leader John Garang and Osman Al Mirghani, patriarch of the Democratic Unionists — the second largest party in Sudan's coalition government — signed an agreement in Ethiopia last year. It called for a ceasefire in southern Sudan, the lifting of Khartoum of the state of emergency and convening by Dec. 31 of a constitutional conference attended by all political parties. The agreement also called for abrogation of Sudan's defence pact with an unnamed foreign power, believed to be Libya.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

800 to run in Iraqi elections

BAGHDAD (AP) — More than 800 Iraqis were expected to register as candidates for the third National Assembly elections scheduled for March, a government official said Monday. The official told the AP that the deadline for applications expired Monday. The elections for the 255-seat assembly, the Iraqi parliament formed in 1980, were originally scheduled for Aug. 30. But after Iran accepted a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in the war with Iraq that took effect Aug. 20, the ruling Revolutionary Command Council postponed them until March 3 while the government was busy with peace talks.

Palestinian embassy opened in E. Berlin

EAST BERLIN (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's East Berlin mission was turned into the embassy of Palestine Monday, in line with East Germany's recognition of the declaration of an independent state last year.

Syria welcomes formation of Lebanon panel

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria welcomed Monday the formation of an Arab League ministerial committee to try to resolve Lebanon's political crisis. "The committee is certainly an important step in the search for a way to put an end to the present situation in Lebanon which has been exploited by the nation's enemies," the official daily Syria Times said in an editorial. "A solution would not be impossible if it preserves Lebanon's unity and Arab identity and bars the elements which infringe on them or threaten them," it added. The committee formed in Tunis last Thursday includes ministers from Kuwait, Algeria, Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi.

Rival leaders of Cyprus meet

NICOSIA (R) — Greek and Turkish-Cypriot leaders resumed talks on reunifying the island Monday. President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş met for two hours in a buffer zone. Vassiliou and Denktaş will meet again next Monday in the home of U.N. special representative to Cyprus Oscar Carmichael, where Monday's closed talks were also held, a U.N. spokesman said.

Somali president in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre arrived in Cairo Monday on the second leg of a Middle East tour to discuss international issues and explain domestic political policy. President Hosni Mubarak met Barre, accompanied by several cabinet ministers, upon his arrival from Iraq and drove with him to the Kubba presidential palace. Barre's tour will also take him to Kuwait.

Islamic foreign ministers to meet in March

KUWAIT (R) — Islamic foreign ministers will meet in Riyadh March 13 to discuss the Afghan and Palestinian conflicts and pan-Islamic cooperation, the new head of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) said Monday. Hamed Al Ghabli of Niger, new secretary general of the 46-member OIC, told reporters after talks with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah that prospects for inter-Islamic cooperation had recently improved.

Iranian premier arrives in Rome

ROME (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi arrived in Rome Monday at the start of a five-day European visit that will also take him to Poland. After his arrival by Iranian military aircraft at Ciampino airport, Musavi flew by helicopter to Rome's Villa Doria Pamphili for meetings with Italian Premier Ciriaco de Mita and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. Musavi, making his first foreign trip in several years, is scheduled to meet with Pope John Paul at the Vatican Tuesday.

Bangui restores ties with Israel

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — The Central African Republic and Israel have restored diplomatic relations, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday. The Central African Republic broke relations in 1973, one of 29 African nations to do so. The decision was announced following a meeting Monday between Central African Republic head of state General Andre Kolingba and an Israeli delegation.

Uganda denies renewed request for Amin

KAMPALA (AP) — A presidential spokeswoman Monday denied that Uganda had renewed a request for the extradition of former dictator Idi Amin from neighbouring Zaire. Sopa Kivengere, presidential press secretary, said she knew nothing of published reports that the government was stepping up diplomatic pressure for the return of Amin.

Armenian militant set free in France

PARIS (R) — An Armenian activist convicted of arms offences in 1986 was released from a French prison Monday but may be expelled to Algeria or South Yemen, Justice Ministry sources said. Monte Melkonian, said by police to be a founder of the guerrilla group ASALA (Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia), was taken from Poissy prison near Paris to a detention centre. A judge will decide whether to let him stay in France, under surveillance, or expel him. Melkonian, 32, was willing to go to Algeria or South Yemen, the sources said. He was sentenced in December 1986 to six years, of which two were suspended, for illegal possession of a pistol, an explosives device and fake documents. His prison term was reduced for good behaviour.

Iranian burials conducted in disguise

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian opposition group said Monday Iranian prison guards had worn disguises to smuggle the bodies of executed political prisoners to a cemetery for secret burial. The Baghdad-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, in a telex to Reuters, said warders from Tehran's Evin prison wearing clothes like those worn by cemetery workers were seen stacking bodies in buses. Hoping to conceal their identity from mourners, they drove the corpses to Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery where hundreds of bodies of executed political prisoners have been discovered, it said. It did not say when the incident occurred. The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq has said it estimates that 12,000 political prisoners have been executed by the Iranian government since the August ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

Soviet troop withdrawals to start in April

VIENNA (R) — A senior Soviet defence official said Monday that the unilateral reduction of Moscow's troops in Eastern Europe would begin in April. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told the United Nations in December that 50,000 troops and 5,000 tanks would be withdrawn from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary within two years. In the first official indication of when the pullouts will begin, Deputy Defence Minister Vitaly Shabanov told Austrian Radio from Moscow that they would take place in two stages, the first beginning in April and the second in 1990. Shabanov would give no details on how many tanks or troops would be withdrawn in each of the stages.



Rifai, Specter discuss Middle East

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai met in his office Monday with visiting U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and a delegation accompanying him. They reviewed latest developments in the Middle East region in the presence of the U.S. Ambassador

Roscoe Suddarth.

Specter was Sunday received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein soon after the U.S. senator's arrival here in the course of a Middle East tour.

EEC envoy leaves Israel; no peace plan but hopes to help

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez concluded a two-day visit to Israel Monday saying he had offered no new peace plan but had hopes of helping to resolve the Middle East problem.

Ordonez told reporters after a one-hour meeting with his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens, that "I didn't come here to give counsel as to how Israel should behave, just to help."

Fernandez Ordonez currently is president of the European Council of Ministers, which groups the foreign ministers of the 12-nation European Economic Community (EEC).

The council earlier this month launched a new peace initiative that aims at organising an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

Israel has been cool to such a move, but last week Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir said the United Nations could play a role in peace efforts by initiating talks between Israel and the Arabs. Fernandez Ordonez, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias are to hold exploratory peace talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Madrid Jan. 27.

Asked if Europe has a role to play in the peace process, Arens told reporters: "The mechanism for the resolution of the problems we are facing is direct negotiations."

He added that "friendly countries have the opportunity... of presenting their views and learning from us what our views are and how we will attack these problems."

Earlier Monday, Fernandez Ordonez held talks with Finance Minister Shimon Peres, who was foreign minister in the previous

Israeli government

Peres told reporters after the session that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would have to stop before any peace talks could begin.

"As long as violence will reign and continue, I see little chance for the peace process," Peres said.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi was quoted as saying by Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper Monday that he expected the EEC to "convince the Israelis to exploit the present positive circumstances in the Middle East, which cannot last for a long time."

Klibi, interviewed in Madrid after talks with Spanish officials, said his discussions with Fernandez Ordonez covered the Middle East problem, Israel's occupation of South Lebanon and stalled peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

Arafat, Finnish leader review peace prospect

HELSINKI (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, arrived Monday and began talks with Foreign Minister Kalevi Sorsa on prospects for peace in the Middle East, the Finnish Foreign Ministry said.

PLO and Foreign Ministry officials have said a central topic of Arafat's talks with Finnish political leaders will be how to advance the Middle East peace process, particularly through an international peace conference.

Ministry officials said Arafat's two-day visit, during which he will meet President Mauno Koivisto and Prime Minister Harri Holkeri, was one of a number of planned high-level Finnish contacts with parties to the Middle East conflict.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has been invited to Finland, which has hundreds of peacekeeping troops in the Middle East, but no date has been fixed.

In a radio interview on the eve

of the visit, Finnish Prime Minister Harri Holkeri said Finland would not change its attitude towards the PLO and extend recognition to the state declared Nov. 15.

"We recognise that the PLO is the most significant representative of the Palestinian people, and it is in this capacity that we have invited Mr. Arafat," Holkeri said.

"However, we do not recognise a Palestinian state because, from the point of view of our policy, that is an irrelevant question."

PLO officials have said they hoped Finland could lead the group of European neutral countries in recognising Palestinian independence.

"Finland could play an important part in peace negotiations, as it is known for its neutrality and its desire to work for peace everywhere," Arafat said in a Finnish television interview from Tunis Sunday.

Rockets kill 5 in Kabul

KABUL (AP) — Six rockets slammed into the Afghan capital Monday, killing four people and injuring nine in the first such attack on the city in three weeks, authorities said.

Afghan guerrillas, fighting the Soviet-backed government, were suspected of launching the first rocket attack Kabul since Dec. 27. But some diplomats speculated the rockets may have been fired by hardline elements in the army of Afghan President Najibullah in an attempt to pressure the Soviets to delay their troop withdrawal.

Rebel mity

An Afghan rebel leader has warned that rival guerrilla forces based in Iran and Pakistan face serious conflicts unless they agree on a single leadership, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday.

"What is important is that before Russians leave, our organisation should form a government and decide on a single leadership to prevent possible bloodshed," IRNA quoted Sibghatullah Mo-

jaddidi, spokesman for the Pakistan-based alliance of seven guerrilla factions, was in Tehran to attend a two-day seminar on Afghanistan that ended Monday.

The Iranians, who have emerged as key brokers in efforts to arrange a peaceful transition following a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, support an eight-group rebel alliance based in Iran.

These groups are predominantly Shi'ite Muslims, like most Iranians.

Soviet charge

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Saturday accused Pakistan of interfering in Afghanistan and said it could instead play a major role in restoring peace, the official Afghan news agency Bakhtar reported. Shevardnadze, in an interview with Bakhtar before his Sunday departure from Kabul after a three-day visit, said the fulfilment of the Geneva accords signed last April depended on Pakistan's new government.

Peres: Camp David cannot be imposed

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres was quoted as saying Monday that the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords could not be imposed upon Palestinians because they were not a party to the pact.

Israel Radio quoted Peres as also telling a visiting Council of Europe parliamentary delegation that the accords, which foresaw only limited "autonomy" for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, could not be enforced against the will of parties.

The European delegation is touring the region to prepare for an international conference of parliamentarians on Middle East peace in June.

Peres earlier met Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, who concluded a two-day fact-finding visit to Israel on behalf of the European Economic Community.

It was the first time Peres had spoken out on foreign policy since Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced in December he was working on a new Israeli peace initiative based on the Camp David accords.

The accords led to Israel's 1979 treaty with Egypt. The radio also quoted Peres, now finance minister and deputy prime minister, as saying he hoped Shamir's right-wing Likud party would soon accept the need for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Shamir fought an election campaign against the idea last November but has since in principle accepted superpower or U.N. auspices to launch direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Iraq, Iran demand other move first to break deadlock

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and Iraq Monday demanded the other make concessions to break the deadlock in United Nations-sponsored peace talks to end their eight-year-old war. But neither showed any sign of budging.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Lavasani told the Associated Press that Tehran rules out any progress in the stalled negotiations unless Iraq withdraws its troops from 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory they occupy.

Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Wisam Al Zahawie rejected any military pullback to pre-war borders troop withdrawal, as envisaged in the United Nations' Security Council ceasefire resolution, before Iran guarantees the safety of navigation of Iraqi shipping in the Gulf.

The dispute has blocked progress since the talks started Aug. 25, five days after the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire took effect.

The two ministers were in Cyprus to attend a non-aligned conference. Iran and Iraq have blamed each other for the peace talks deadlock.

Each demanded full implementation of the first point of the 10-point ceasefire agreement — an immediate ceasefire on land, at sea and in the air and a withdrawal by both sides to the pre-war border. But they had a different interpretation of what the first point demanded.

Lavasani said that "obviously, after the establishment of a ceasefire, withdrawal to internationally recognised border had to be implemented without delay."

Zahawie said: "They ask for a withdrawal of troops, but of course this will come only after a consolidation of the ceasefire on land, at sea and in the air, as demanded by the first point of the Security Council resolution."

He said that Iran's insistence that it has the right under international law to intercept Iraqi-bound shipping until a peace treaty is signed "means that the ceasefire has not yet been fully implemented."

The Iranians have not intercepted any vessels in the Gulf since the ceasefire, but it has declared it was ready to waive its right to do so if the Iraqis withdraw their troops.

"This is not good enough, we don't accept favours from Iran," Zahawie said.

"If Iran feels free, at any time, to exercise this right, this means a resort to force, since our ships will not obey an order to stop. This means the ceasefire will be violated," he argued.

"They expect us to accept a

blockade of Iraqi ports, and expect to have full freedom to use their ports without any sign of a similar blockade by us. But a ceasefire should benefit both sides equally," Zahawie added.

He said Iraq has proposed that both sides sign an agreement they would not interfere with the freedom of shipping, "but they refused."

Lavasani defended Iran's stand, saying Tehran was "serious when we accepted" Security Council Resolution 598, "and we still stand by this commitment."

"We believe that 598 should be fully implemented on the basis of the secretary-general's outline plan, which has been endorsed by the Security Council," he said.

Zahawie said another point preventing progress is Iran's refusal to allow the clearing of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, Iraq's only outlet to the sea, which is blocked by sunken ships and other war debris.

Iran, which has hundreds of kilometres of Gulf coastline, maintains that work cannot start before a complete Iraqi troop withdrawal.

Zahawie said clearing could start with an understanding by both sides that this would not affect conflicting claims on the waterway, the pre-war southern boundary between the two sides.

"We have the feeling the Iranians don't want a comprehensive peace. They only want an end to the conflict on the battlefield to make it a diplomatic conflict," he said.

10 Palestinians killed in 5 days in W. Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the occupied West Bank Monday and a Gazan died of wounds received in an earlier clash, bringing to 10 the number of Palestinians shot dead in the last five days.

Two Palestinians have died each day since Thursday in clashes with soldiers, prompting an Israeli cabinet debate over army methods, particularly the use of supposedly non-lethal plastic bullets.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal noted in Sunday's cabinet meeting that casualties had risen while the number of protests in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories had declined, government sources said.

During a clash with stone-throwing students in the West Bank town of Hebron, troops shot dead Radwan Abu Sheih, 17, and Ahmad Mohamed Abu Mustafa of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip died in hospital of head wounds sustained Saturday, the army said.

Their deaths brought the number of Palestinian fatalities in the 13-month-old uprising to at least 367.

Palestinians reported at least eight protesters were wounded by army gunfire. Police meanwhile lifted a five-day curfew on the Arab Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan but warned it would be imposed again if stone-throwing at passing vehicles resumed. Some 30 residents were arrested during the curfew.

Curfews were maintained on the West Bank town of Tulikarem and the Gaza Strip refugee camps of Shati and Nuseirat, the army said.

Right-wing trade and industry minister Ariel Sharon demanded that Israel act against what he called PLO offices operating in Arab Jerusalem.

Minister-without-portfolio Ehud Olmert, who is in charge of Arab affairs and a member of the right-wing Likud bloc, said on Israel Radio Monday that every Arab death caused him "personal anguish." "Both Israel and the Palestinians are paying a 'high price' for putting down the uprising, he said.

While favouring tough measures against protesters, Olmert said he did not understand the army's policy for opening fire.

"I don't think there's a lot of logic or common sense in shooting after a boy when he's already finished throwing his stone and is running away," he said. "There must be some judgement and some restraint."

In the Gaza Strip, families buried a 12-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy overnight under the watchful eyes of a military patrol, an Arab reporter said. Both were killed by troops in clashes during the past week.

The army forced the families to bury the dead at midnight and limited the number of relatives attending to 15, the Arab reporter said. The restrictions were apparently designed to prevent the funerals from sparking further protesters.

In Jerusalem, several extreme right-wing Israelis linked to former anti-Arab parliamentarian rabbi Meir Kahane said they planned to create an independent "state of Judea" in the occupied territories if Israel decided to withdraw from there.

"We are loyal Israelis but if our government gives up Judea and Samaria (Israeli names for the West Bank) and Gaza, then we will create a free state of Judea there to prevent the creation of a 'terrorist' PLO state," said militant Michael Ben-Horin.

Foreign ministers gather in Vienna to endorse CSCE pact

VIENNA (Agencies) — Foreign ministers from 34 countries, headed by George Shultz on his last trip as U.S. secretary of state, began arriving in Vienna Monday to endorse a disarmament and human rights package hailed as a breakthrough in East-West relations.

The ministers begin a three-day meeting Tuesday during which they will formally approve the final document of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE), worked out over 27 months of hard bargaining.

Shultz, making his last trip abroad before a new administration takes over in Washington Friday, was the first to arrive.

He was to call on Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and Foreign Minister Alois Mock. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is not scheduled to arrive in Vienna until Wednesday.

The ministers will endorse a new set of talks on reducing conventional forces in Europe, due to open in March, and a package of proposals on improving human rights and economic cooperation in Europe.

The package was hailed as a milestone in East-West relations by all participants except Romania, which had adopted Sunday.

The Romanian statement, made at a closed-door meeting and later distributed by the state news agency Agerpres, said Bucharest "does not pledge" to keep accords to which it objected earlier.

Yuri Kashlev, the Soviet ambassador to the review conference, said Romania's statement did not wreck the consensus on

which all Helsinki accords are based.

But U.S. Ambassador Warren Zimmermann bluntly dismissed Romania's statement as "illegal" and "absurd."

Shultz praised the Soviet Union for making progress toward improving its record on human rights. But he also urged Moscow to go further by tearing down the Berlin Wall and dismantling transmitters used until last year to jam Western radio broadcasts into Eastern Europe.

The top U.S. foreign policy official credited the Soviets and their East European allies with being more open than in 1975, when the original Helsinki final act was signed. The new agreement came at the end of a conference reviewing the Helsinki accord.



Rescue workers carry one of the victims of a car bomb explosion in west Beirut Friday. Hizbollah blames its rival Amal for the attack, which killed at least seven people.

Amal, Hizbollah bury the dead, vow deadly revenge

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Feuding militias Monday vowed deadly vengeance against each other as they buried victims of their battles in South Lebanon.

"We shall take revenge. It shall be merciless," chanted about 1,500 zealots of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

They also intoned "Death to the criminal of south Beirut" and "Berri, Berri you satan" in south Beirut's Bir Al Abed district during a funeral procession for four combatants.

Nabih Berri heads the rival mainstream Amal militia which Hizbollah has been fighting on and off for nine months in a struggle for dominance of Lebanon's Shi'ites, the country's largest sect.

At about the same time, some 7,000 mourners staged a funeral in the southern port of Tyre for three Amal victims, chanting "Death to Iran, death to Khomeini" and "Oh Iran re-

move your dogs from here and get off our backs."

Other funeral processions were held by the two factions elsewhere in south and east Lebanon for 13 other victims whose corpses were among 20 removed by the Red Cross Sunday from the embattled apple province village of Jubah.

Hizbollah advocates the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon patterned after Iran.

The more secular and nationalist Amal resents Iran's influence and has been fighting since April to evict Hizbollah from Beirut's Shi'ite-populated southern slums and predominantly Shi'ite South Lebanon.

Their latest confrontation started in south Beirut Dec. 31 and spread to the south a day later.

Police said the two factions clashed before dawn Monday in the southern slums for the third time in 24 hours. They said two people were killed and five wounded in the street battles.

That topped the casualties to 168 killed and 315 wounded since Dec. 31.

A Hizbollah spokesman, who requested anonymity, said: "We are afraid of another car bomb, similar to the one we had after the protest march Friday. That's why the march today will be brief."

A powerful car bomb exploded in Bir Al Abed Friday, minutes after thousands of Hizbollahis staged a protest march against Amal. Police said seven people were killed and 15 wounded.

Hizbollahi militiamen stopped the funeral procession occasionally to check cars on both sides of the road. They broke windows of at least three cars which they suspected were booby-trapped.

Top Hizbollah clerics held talks Sunday with Sheikh Shamseddine. Hizbollah says Shamseddine is loyal to Amal.

Shamseddine met Hizbollah's spiritual mentor, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, Saturday for the first time in two years.

Battles between the rival groups eased off over the past three days while Shi'ite religious leaders tried to stop the bloodshed.

Local newspapers said Hizbollah and Amal teams as well as Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, vice-president of the Higher Shi'ite Council, were expected to visit Damascus for talks with Syrian officials.

Syria and Iran held talks last week seeking a way to end the fighting.

Ibrahim Al Amin, a top Hizbollah cleric, called Sunday for an immediate truce and urged Iran and Syria to intervene.

Klibi: Arab states pressured U.S. into scrapping exercises

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi says that Arab states with influence on the United States pressured Washington into calling off planned naval manoeuvres off Libya, the Al Qabas daily reported Monday.

"The good offices exerted by certain Arab states on the international level were part of a comprehensive Arab League move to contain the consequences of the shooting down of two Libyan jets and prevent an escalation of tension in the Mediterranean, particularly at this critical and important stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict," the daily quoted him as saying.

He did not name the Arab countries.

U.S. navy F-14s shot down two Libyan MiG-23s over the Mediterranean Jan. 4 amid tension over U.S. allegations that Libya was building a chemical weapons plant south of Tripoli. Libya said the factory was designed to manufacture pharmaceuticals.

The U.S. State Department said Jan. 11 that naval air manoeuvres in the Mediterranean near Libya scheduled for Jan. 16-17 had been cancelled in an effort to reduce tension in the region.

The Arab League rallied behind Libya to condemn the Jan. 4 incident.

Arab states called for restraint by the United States and Libya to avoid jeopardising renewed Middle East peace efforts following the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism.

U.S. keeps up pressure

Senior U.S. officials meanwhile kept up the pressure on Libya but gave no indication that a military strike against the alleged chemical weapons plant was in the offing.

Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Libya last week returned the body of a U.S. airman shot down during the 1986 U.S. bombing raid because "they are anxious for better relations with us."

"But actions are going to have to follow words..." Walters said in an interview on Cable News Network.

"We're looking for an abandonment of (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi's constant efforts to swallow up, unite with or absorb his

neighbours, and to stop supporting international terrorism."

"He's doing it now in more distant areas, like the Filipino rebels or the IRA. But he's got to behave like a civilised member of the civilised community if he wants to be accepted," Walters said.

President Reagan said last month the United States was discussing with its allies the possibility of bombing the alleged chemical factory. But U.S. officials have said since then that a military action against it is not under active consideration.

"We have suggested to Libya... that it might be a good thing for the Libyans to consider dismantling, liquidating it themselves since it is causing such a major international scare," White House National Security Adviser Colin Powell said in a separate television interview.

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said news reports about a possible military strike against the facility had been blown out of proportion.

"The president didn't quite say it that way. He simply didn't rule out options. And we never comment on contingency plans," he told ABC television.

Threats

The head of a West German company at the centre of the controversy over the alleged Libyan plant has received death threats, a mass-circulation West German newspaper reported Monday.

The Hamburg-based Bild newspaper made the report in connection with the Imhausen-Chemie company of Lahar. The U.S. government has said Imhausen was a main supplier of materials and assistance to Libya for the alleged plant.

"The head of Imhausen-Chemie in Lahar, Juergen Hippenstiel-Imhausen, 49, has received telephone threats against his life because of his involvement with Qadhafi's chemical plant," Bild said.

Bild said that because of the threats, Hippenstiel-Imhausen "has gone into hiding in a foreign country with his 42-year-old wife, Violet, and 11-year-old son, Jan."

The newspaper did not say who is suspected of having made the threats.

Bagaza gets asylum in Libya



Jean Baptista Bagaza

KAMPALA (AP) — Former Burundi President Jean Baptista Bagaza, ousted in a bloodless military coup more than a year ago, has left for Libya where he obtained political asylum, an official newspaper reported Monday.

The government-owned newspaper New Vision said Bagaza, who has been living in Uganda since September 1987, left on a scheduled Ethiopian Airlines flight Sunday. He was accompanied by his wife, Fausta.

"I am going to stay in Tripoli, Libya, but we hope it will be temporary," Bagaza said.

"I hope to go back to Burundi as a citizen with all rights and duties. It is a right to live in one's country if a government (there) pretends to be legitimate or democratic. The only former leaders who cannot return to their countries are those who are guilty of something," he said.

Military officers, led by Burundi's current president, 41-year-old Major Pierre Buyoya, ousted Bagaza Sept. 3, 1987. Bagaza was attending a Francophone summit in Montreal, Canada. His wife was with him. Their four daughters, aged between 9 and 13, still live in Burundi.

Bagaza and his wife have attempted to return home several times, but Buyoya's government has blocked their efforts. Uganda authorities had made it clear Bagaza's stay in their country was temporary.

Bagaza's ouster followed his government's suppression of the Roman Catholic Church, to which 65 per cent of Burundians belong.

"The reason for my overthrow was not to do with tribes or with the Catholic church, but that a group of people arranged to topple the government," Bagaza said.

Arab students protest Israel's racist decision

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Four Arab women students at Tel Aviv University held up in their dormitory Monday as the student union tried to block the university from transferring Arab dormitory residents to keep them separate from foreign Jewish students.

The four Israeli Arab women and about a dozen supporters were refusing to leave the room as instructed by university officials, said Yossi Shtrum, a member of the student union.

He said the union appealed to a Tel Aviv district court Sunday to foil the transfer.

"This is a racist decision and it is unacceptable," Shtrum said. But dean of students Gideon Fishelson said the university has transferred almost 50 students to new rooms to make way for members of an overseas programme and fewer than 10 Arab students were affected by the moves.

He acknowledged, however, that the university has a long-standing policy of housing overseas students exclusively with other Jews, so they learn about Israel and are not influenced by negative "propaganda" spread by

Students are also collecting signatures on a petition that says, "We will not let the university be dragged into apartheid."

Shtrum said the foreign students should not be shielded from Israel's diverse population.

"Students from abroad have to learn to live with all Israeli students, not just Jews. That's the Israeli reality," he said.

Israeli Arabs make up about 17 per cent of Israel's population of 4.2 million.

Waldegrave, Klibi see '89 as crucial for peace

TUNIS (Agencies) — British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave left Tunis Monday after a four-day visit during which he held groundbreaking talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The minister of state had a final meeting Monday morning with Chadli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, on attempts to bring peace to the Middle East, talks between Iran and Iraq and Britain's relations with Syria and Libya.

Waldegrave and Klibi agreed 1989 would be a crucial year for progress on the question of Palestine, league officials said.

The minister has said his meeting with Arafat Friday marked the return of Britain to the Middle East peace process and he welcomed the change in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) policy towards recognition of Israel.

It was Arafat's first meeting with a British minister.

After the talks Waldegrave said Israel would have to adapt to a changing world or run the risk of being left behind.

British officials said Waldegrave and Arafat agreed on the form of a proposed Middle East peace conference and Waldegrave said the only obstacle was Israeli opposition to the idea.

Israel says it would prefer direct talks with selected Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The British minister also met Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and other ministers and attended a two-day conference of British ambassadors in the Maghreb.

He was returning to London via Frankfurt.

'Israel losing support'

Waldegrave was quoted as saying Monday that Israel's handling of the occupied territories has lost it support in Western Europe.

He also told the Times newspaper that the United States supported Britain's initiatives for peace in the Middle East, including Waldegrave's meeting with Arafat.

Waldegrave told the Times: "The Israelis have got to realise that their handling of the occupied territories has lost them that inestimable thing which they once had, the instinctive support of the ordinary man or woman in the street in Western Europe, and perhaps in the United States."

He said, "It is something which they should be seriously assessing the long-term consequences of."

In an interview from Tunis, Waldegrave also spoke of U.S. support for British moves.

"The Americans certainly welcome our move because it derives from the same analysis that the recent steps taken by Mr. Arafat and the Palestinians are real... the Palestinians have genuinely moved," he told the newspaper.

Waldegrave said in Tunis after the meeting with Klibi that London had "serious problems with Libya, especially Tripoli's support for the provisional Irish Republican Army."

Waldegrave said he told Klibi the British government was "waiting for more than just words and that we would like proof of (Libya) following another path so



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat meets British Minister William Waldegrave in Tunis Friday.

that relations between our countries can improve."

Asked if he had suggested Klibi be the mediator between Britain and Libya, which have not had diplomatic relations since 1986, Waldegrave said he had not asked, and Klibi had not prop-

osed such a role.

"We have let (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi know exactly what we are asking of him," he said.

Waldegrave said Britain's relations with Syria were "totally different."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Greek airliner cleared after threat

LARNACA (R) — A Greek Jumbo jet diverted to Cyprus after a bomb threat from an extremist Greek group resumed its flight Monday after receiving security clearance. Sources at Larnaca airport said police assisted by tracker dogs and X-ray machines had searched the plane, its passengers and their luggage and found no evidence of a bomb. The Olympic Airways airliner, carrying 421 people on a non-stop flight from Athens to Bangkok, diverted to Larnaca Sunday after a telephone caller to the airline's Athens office said a bomb was on board. The caller spoke in the name of the left-wing November 17 group, which first surfaced in 1975 and has subsequently claimed responsibility for several bomb attacks and for killing four U.S. officials. Police sources said that, in case a bomb had been timed to go off in mid-air, the search of the plane was delayed until its scheduled flight time to Bangkok plus five hours had elapsed.

U.N. envoy pursues Sahara mission

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP) — U.N. envoy Hector Gros Espiell met Sunday with Mauritania's head of state as part of a tour through the region aimed at setting up a referendum to decide the allegiance of the Western Sahara. Espiell, special representative of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, spent last week in Morocco and will go on to Algeria, where the Polisario Front guerrillas seeking independence for the territory are based. He met Sunday with Maoutya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, delivering a letter from the U.N. chief with the full text of proposals to end the struggle. On Friday, Espiell, an Uruguayan lawyer, visited the port of Laayoune, from where phosphate is

exported. He is to go on to Tindouf Tuesday to meet with Polisario representatives and Algerian officials.

Israeli Labour Party official resigns

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Labour Party Secretary-General Uzi Baram announced Sunday he was resigning from his post to protest against his party's decision to join a "unity government" led by right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "It was one of the biggest mistakes that was ever made by the Labour Party and I made all the efforts needed to prevent it but I didn't succeed," he told reporters. Baram, who wanted his Labour Party to go into opposition following inconclusive elections last Nov. 1, also turned down an offer of a ministerial post from party chairman Shimon Peres. The "unity government" was formed last month. Asked if he was trying to build a faction that would challenge the leadership of Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, number two on the party list, Baram told Israeli radio: "I really hope so."

Bahrain reports cut in drug addicts

BAHRAIN (R) — Tough anti-drug laws and a public awareness campaign have drastically cut the number of drug addicts registered in Bahrain, a senior hospital official said Monday. Dr. Mohammad Al Haddad, chairman of Bahrain's psychiatric hospital, said the number of addicts, mainly heroin-users, registered at its addiction ward fell to 190 in 1988 from 4,378 in 1984. "This is a drastic reduction and is due to multiple factors," he said. "The introduction of capital punishment for smugglers in 1984 is one... police have also been more stringent in dealing with smuggling." Haddad told Reuters a few addicts might be unknown to his hospital but added: "I am confident nearly all have passed through our system."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:40 Educational programme
17:10 Religious programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Programme on world news
18:20 Programme on children
19:10 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 News in Arabic
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Chaîne
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss
21:10 Sophia and Constance
22:00 News in English
22:20 Ad-dunya

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fajr
06:22 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:46 Dhuhr
14:36 'Asr
16:59 Maghreb
18:21 Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637440.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 623246.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625343. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 68326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822405.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and rainy sometimes with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 1 / 9
Aqaba 7 / 16
Dead Sea 2 / 9
Jordan Valley 5 / 15

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 15. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024
Dr. Zein Zaghoul 638591
Dr. Ramzi Al Mizan 894788
Dr. Salah Al E'soud 649028
First pharmacy 661912
Firdows pharmacy 78336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairowah pharmacy 626752
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Smeicani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ta'ani (-)
Al Shama pharmacy 985236

ZARQA:
Dr. Rashed Shahin 995710
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 199
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 638591
Fire Brigade 62209093
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65340991
Public Security Department 65000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 650800
Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 845845
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 771013
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-52200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 6442412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Melba, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Samcatani 664171/4
Shrakani Hospital 669121
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 6672292
The Islamic, Abadi 6662737
Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhagreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/2
Army, Marja 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 6244025
Amal Hospital 674125
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09983373
Zarga National Hospital 09991071
Ibn Sina Hospital 89186794

IRBID:
Prince Basma Hospital 02727565
Green Catholic Hospital 02727275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital 02647106
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03514131

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg
Apples 500 / 400
Bananas 300 / 250
Banana (Malaysian) 300 / 250
Beans 600 / 500
Cabbage 150 / 100
Carrots 240 / 200
Cauliflower 260 / 200
Cucumber 200 / 150
Dates 130 / 100
Eggplant (large) 130 / 100
Eggplant (small) 180 / 120
Garlic 280 / 200
Onion (large) 200 / 150
Onion (small) 200 / 150
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 200 / 150
Orange (French) 370 / 300
Orange (Shamir) 350 / 250
Orange (local) 240 / 200
Onion (dry) 280 / 200
Pepper (red) 480 / 300
Pepper (green) 480 / 300
Spinach 200 / 150
Tomatoes 200 / 150

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

TIES WITH ITALY: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Monday discussed with Italian Ambassador in Amman Francesco do Caten the distinguished relations between Jordan and Italy particularly the parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

CABINET ENDORSES NEW LAWS: The Cabinet endorsed a set of regulations for the Health Ministry Wednesday. The regulations provided for merging the Personnel Department with the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department. The Cabinet also endorsed the appointment of Dr. Ahmad Hlayil as secretary general of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry, Mohammad Ibrahim Shaqra as director general of the Zakat Fund as of Feb. 1, 1988, and Barakat Mahmoud Shatnawi as mayor of Huwwarah in Irbid Governorate. (Petra)

TARAWNEH MEETS ENVOYS: Supply Minister Fayez Tarawneh Wednesday conferred separately with Australian Ambassador Robert Bowker, UAE Ambassador Mohammad Jassem Ali, Qatari Ambassador Mubarak Naser Al Kuwari and Japanese Ambassador Makoto Watanabe. During these meetings, talks focused on bilateral trade and supply in addition to means to bolster them. (Petra)

DUDIN, WATANABE HOLD TALKS: Labour Minister Marwan Dudin Monday discussed cooperation with Japanese Ambassador in Amman Makoto Watanabe. (Petra)

COOPERATION WITH EUROPE, SUDAN: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Monday received the head of the delegation of the European Community Commission and Sudan's Ambassador in Amman Mahjoub Radwan. During the two separate meetings, talks focused on cooperation. (Petra)

INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY: A flag hoisting ceremony will take place Thursday, Jan. 26, at 10:00 a.m. at the Indian embassy in Amman to mark India's Republic Day. All Indian nationals are expected to attend the event at the embassy grounds in Jabal Amman. (J.T.)

MA'AN MARKS ARBOR DAY: Arbor Day celebrations were held in the Ma'an Governorate Monday. Tree-planting took place at the grounds of housing estate, for government employees and those of the Jordan Electricity Authority. The director of the Afforestation Department in the governorate and other officials made speeches at the ceremony. (Petra)

AZRAQ FARMERS GET LICENCES: The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Monday began issuing licences to farmers and land developers to exploit artesian wells in the Azraq region. The ministry made it a condition that beneficiaries should install meters at the wells in order to control the amount of water pumped out for irrigating land. (Petra)

SSC COLLECTS JD 1.2M. IN ZARQA: A spokesman for the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in Zarqa announced Monday that his department collected JD 1.2 million from individuals and organisations covered by the corporation's law in the past year. He said that in the past year the department distributed JD 92,000 in compensation to beneficiaries within the Zarqa Governorate. (Petra)

KUWAITI YOUTH DELEGATION: A Kuwaiti student delegation Monday left Amman at the conclusion of a seven-day visit to Jordan. Head of the delegation Mohammad Mubarak Al Suri said that the visit is part of the cultural agreement signed between Kuwait and Jordan to exchange expertise. (Petra)

PSD AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT: Public Security Department (PSD) sources have noted that the security cooperation agreement signed recently between Jordan and Egypt includes an article which states that Egyptians arriving in Jordan for work should get a good conduct certificate from the Egyptian authorities prior to their departure for Jordan. Al Dostour daily reported. The said agreement was signed during the recent visit of the Jordanian security delegation, which was led by PSD Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali to Cairo. (Petra)

7 killed, 8 injured in Zarqa road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least seven persons were killed and eight others injured in a road accident which occurred on the Hashemite-Khaw Highway in Zarqa Governorate Sunday. A report in the local press said that the victims were all passengers in a public transport bus which collided with a heavy truck carrying a load of iron.

The press also reported the death of two other persons including a 10-year-old girl in other

road accidents in the country over the past 48 hours. Another child from Bakaa Refugee Camp was admitted to hospital suffering from food poisoning, the report said.

Al Ra'i daily reported the injury of two men when their vehicle overturned at Rweishid in the eastern regions of Jordan and the injury of a third man, an Egyptian, during a fight at Al Jizeh, south of Amman.

Damascus meeting discusses food security in Arab World

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Issues connected with food security in the Arab World and pan-Arab agricultural integration will be among the main topics for discussion by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) which started its meetings in Damascus Monday.

Jordan is represented at the meeting by Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr.

The minister said coordination among Arab countries on measures to combat locusts and the organisation's 1989 budget will be among other subjects to be discussed by the delegates.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madamghah and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sabe' and Nihal Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Yugoslav graphic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of caricatures by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Ala'a Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.

THEATRE

- ★ Theatrical portraits of a selection of literary writings entitled "Shades of Eve" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A German film entitled "Straw Fire" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A scientific film on the mechanism and functions of the brain (Part 3) at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Amman governor asks all sections to report on 1988 achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of government departments and sub-district governors in the Amman Governorate were Monday requested to prepare reports on their achievements of development projects in the past year and plans for 1989.

The request was made by Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin at a meeting held in Amman to review the accom-

plishments of various departments.

Amin underlined the need to stimulate the role of local government and to promote decentralised administration which, he said, can ensure a better and more efficient implementation of development schemes.

In Zarqa, Governor Eid Qataneh chaired a similar meeting and underlined the importance for

implementing resolutions and recommendations taken by a development seminar held at Azraq, especially those that aim to develop the Badia areas of Jordan.

Qataneh said that infrastructure projects must be given priority, and announced that an official will be appointed in every municipality to follow up the implementation of projects.

Tafileh governor inspects roads damaged by snowfall

TAFILEH (Petra) — Tafileh Governor Aref Irbid Monday inspected roads which were recently blocked by the accumulation of snow and sustained damage. These are the Qadiseh, Ghindal and Rashadih roads.

Later the governor met with

local inhabitants in villages near the wadis and streams and urged them to move to safer ground for fear that their areas may be flooded with water once the snow begins to melt.

Snow fell over the past two days on areas of 1,200 metres

above sea level and higher, and the Department of Meteorology said that cold fronts which resulted from a depression centred over the Eastern Mediterranean will continue to affect Jordan Monday through Tuesday bringing in scattered showers and causing a noticeable drop in temperatures.

The Public Security Department reported Sunday evening that a number of roads in higher regions of southern Jordan were closed and urged motorists to take extra care when travelling in those regions.

The director of the South Cement Factory in the Rashadih region reported that at least 20 centimetres of snow covered some parts of the cement plant area and the civil defence authorities in the south said that several cars were stranded and civil defence teams were called out to offer help.

Jordan, Egypt sign information agreement

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Monday signed an agreement paving the way for cooperation between their national news agencies in information fields.

The agreement, signed by Ali Safadi, director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and his Egyptian counterpart Mustafa Najib, was concluded in implementation of a recommendation

by the Joint Jordanian Egyptian Higher Committee.

According to Petra, the agreement paves the way for the two news agencies to exchange news and information material and to transmit news about either country. They will also give facilities to journalists from Egypt and Jordan visiting either country and will establish a channel to provide speedy exchanges of information.

Minister discusses Irbid projects

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud visited the northern city of Irbid Monday and discussed with Governor Akram Al Naser and heads of municipal councils, development projects currently being undertaken by Irbid municipality in conjunction with neighbouring towns.

The minister and the governor

also discussed implementing the Yarmouk Battle Panorama project, a tourist hotel and an amusement park in Irbid region.

The establishment of a national park with recreational activities, a cable car and an artificial lake in the Ajloun district were also discussed at the meeting.

Naser briefed the minister on arrangements made to convene a

seminar to discuss development projects in the Ajloun district and means of developing tourist attractions there.

Local officials and heads of local municipal councils of Sarih, Husun, Eidun, Bushra, Saal, Al Mugheer and Hakama, as well as Dr. Abdul Razak Tubeishat, mayor of Irbid, were present at the meeting.

Five-day cultural season to open in Irbid Jan. 23

IRBID (Petra) — A five-day cultural season will open in Irbid on Jan. 23, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage which is sponsoring the event.

A ministry announcement said that there will be a display of art works by Jordanian plastic artists

at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid, to be followed by a seminar on plastic art in general.

Meanwhile on Sunday Minister of Information Hani Khesawneh opened an exhibition of cartoons by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin. The exhibition, held at the

Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman, displays 80 items of art work depicting resistance activities carried out during the ongoing Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

A large audience of art lovers and invited guests attended the opening ceremony.

Many-faceted Eve emerges from shadows with a marked difference

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — "Deception, thy name is woman;" reaffirmation of the time-old wisdom is the message one gets in the first few minutes of watching "Shades of Eve," a play varying billed as "experimental theatre" and "theatre collage," but in any event something new in Amman and, indeed, a job remarkably well done.

THEATRE REVIEW

As we "really get into it," — that's how director Sawsan Darwaza puts it — the presentation of the play itself strikes us as most unique; the tendencies of today's Eve, whether in the confines of her home or in professional life. The theme of deception is soon overshadowed and overpowered by thought-provoking dialogue. No doubt, many of the scenes could easily be taken from our own living rooms and kitchens. More than anything else, they stand out as a pointer to something that was always there but few cared to bother about or even acknowledge. That is perhaps the biggest point "Shades of Eve" seeks to make.

The first snippet, "Overtones," pits two women trying to have a casual conversation but with ulterior motives: while one is in pursuit of a job for her husband, the other, who happens to be the man's ex-girlfriend, wants a reunion with her ex-flame despite being a wife of someone else. The intricacies of their thought processes are beautifully articulated by their inner voices who are on stage to give an in-sight to what they actually mean through niceties, taunting and

flattery. Seen within the widely-held parameters that define a play, "Shades of Eve" does not have a central narrative story or elaborate set-ups. But that is precisely what distinguishes it.

A collection of snippets — two or three of them adapted from famous writers and some of them written by the actresses and director themselves — "Shades of Eve" lives up to its name and presents the varying images of women, from the elite of the society to the down-trodden toilers of the soil.

Is it conceivable that the lady of the house derives a savage pleasure in showing off before her own maids, who, in turn, resent it like hell? Well, yes, says Jean Genet; and "Shades of Eve" shows us how.

"Four O'Clock Tea," penned by Haya Hussein — one of the four players — illustrates the superficial talk — "gossip" perhaps will be more accurate — when a group of women meets and airs views on everything under the sun. "Women of the Land" — again written by Hussein — could easily be applied to Iranian women who live under the shadow of the traditional chador almost all their life, though the dialogue has a definite link with the "revolution of the stones" — the Palestinian uprising.

In 80 minutes, the play takes us through a guided tour of women's inner conflicts, their urge to break the society's traditional barriers, their hopes and disappointments, their likes and dislikes and their hatred and love, and leaves the audience — or at least those who manage to comprehend the philosophy — with more than enough to digest before the next encounter with one of



The many faces of 'Shades of Eve' — (standing from left to right) Haya Hussein, Sana Atiyeh, Seema Qubein and Suchinta Vijesoriya — with director Sawsan Darwaza

today's eves — "vaporous, voluble, vogue, venomous, vain, vast, vulnerable" and the salt of the earth.

The list is endless and so are the lighter and darker images of woman that "Shades of Eve" brings to life on stage to reinforce the claim by the fairer of the sexes that "I am nature's greatest miracle" with a fine-tuned combination of sarcasm, humour, high philosophy and realism, and, above all, professionalism.

Perhaps the most resounding feature of the production is its simplicity in terms of settings and costumes. But then it is intended to be so, in that it is presented in a "studio theatre" and cannot be described as "something for everyone."

Director Darwaza doesn't disagree. In fact, she reaffirms that it will be "some time" before the audience can get to grips with the style of presentation and theme, especially that one gets an eerie feeling of a horror movie, what with four actresses wearing black de-

Jordan, Egypt to start livestock production

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The newly-established Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company said Monday it will begin livestock production to cover demand for meat in Jordan and Egypt.

The company's director, Dr. Midhat Abdul Aziz, told a press conference here that the company would begin with the production of 14,200 tonnes of meat and 20,800 heads of sheep a year.

Abdul Aziz said the project, to be established near Egypt's port city of Alexandria, would cost about \$12 million. Production, he said, was due to start towards the end of the year.

He put the projected annual demand in Egypt at 238,000 tonnes of meat and at 41,000 in Jordan by 1995.

The announcement coincided with a meeting here of the Jordanian-Egyptian Committee for Industrial Coordination at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf and head of the Egyptian Industry Council, Dr. Mohammad Abdul Fattah, co-chaired the committee meeting.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the meeting discussed industrial coordination and the investment climate in both countries, including the situation in the fertilisers sector and the food industries.

The committee also discussed the idea of establishing a joint export office for national industries in both countries between the private sectors in Jordan and Egypt to market production surpluses in the Arab and international markets.

Saqqaf said the meetings were conducted "in an honest and realistic atmosphere," and that the talks focused on "adopting practical steps that guarantee the attainment of industrial coordination between the two countries."

He explained that the committee will resume its meetings Tuesday to discuss issues related to electronic industries and spare parts, and to establish a final framework for industrial cooperation between the Kingdom and Egypt.

The Egyptian delegation will also pave the way for a meeting in Cairo on Jan. 23 by ministers of industry and trade in Egypt and Jordan, Petra reported.

During a visit to Cairo last October, Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa reviewed with Egyptian ministers progress in the implementation of joint projects agreed on by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee chaired by the prime ministers in the two countries.

Bilateral trade is in the area of \$250 million annually.

JVA distributes housing units

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) council Monday decided to distribute 284 housing units to farmers in Ghor Mazraa, 172 in Ghor Haditha in the southern Jordan Valley region, and 190 units in the central Jordan Valley regions.

The council, meeting under the chairmanship of Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhlan, also endorsed a plan for appropriating pieces of land in the Jordan Valley to be utilised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, on which mosques and other installations will be built.

Meanwhile, the Jordan Valley farmers association's board chairman Talal Ghazzawi said in a statement published Monday that he had submitted a detailed report to the prime minister on the damages caused to crops in Jordan Valley during the current frost wave.

Ghazzawi said that damages of up to 100 per cent were caused to large areas of land grown with vegetables such as marrows, tomatoes and bananas, and that most of the damage was caused to lands in North Shuneh, Mashara' and Wadi Al Yabis regions of the valley.

Other areas grown with pepper, potatoes and eggplants sustained up to 70 per cent damage, Ghazzawi noted.

Ghazzawi's report included a set of recommendations which included a call on the government to reschedule the farmers' loans and to write off interest on them in view of the huge losses they sustained as a result of the bad weather conditions.

In his report, a copy of which was sent to Minister of Agriculture

Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr, Ghazzawi urged the government to set up an emergency fund that would provide compensation to farmers in natural disasters.

Last week, a three member ministerial committee toured areas of the Jordan Valley region affected by the recent wave of frost and was reported preparing a detailed report on the extent of crop damage to be submitted to the council of ministers.

Ministry of Agriculture's

Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi, who accompanied the committee members on the tour, said that the frost wave caused severe damage to crops grown in the northern rather than the southern regions of the valley. Lawzi estimated that damage was caused to 18,500 dunums of land planted with different crops.

Hmoud to attend conference on controlling toxic waste disposal

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The United Nations is sponsoring an international conference on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste, which will be held in the Swiss city of Basel, according to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

A ministry spokesman said Monday that Jordan has been invited to take part in the conference, to open on March 20, when delegates will sign an international agreement on transporting and dumping such waste in other countries.

The conference will be attended by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud who received an invitation from the Swiss government delivered by Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Harald Bomer, the spokesman announced.

He said the ambassador discussed with the minister scopes of Swiss-Jordanian cooperation in protecting the environment and developing cities and rural regions in Jordan.

The agreement in Basel will be known as the "International Agreement on the Trans-Boundary Movement of Perilous Waste," according to the Swiss embassy in Amman.

The invitations issued by the Swiss interior minister, have gone

out to ministers in charge of the environment in their countries, according to the embassy.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) board of directors last June set up a committee of experts and technicians to work out an international agreement, and four meetings were held later during which the final version of the agreement was concluded.

The UNEP was established by the United Nations in 1972 to provide machinery for international cooperation in matters relating to the human environment.

In cooperation with other international organisations and governments, UNEP aims to maintain a constant watch on the changing state of the environment, to assess problems using a wide range of data and techniques and to promote projects leading to environmentally sound development.

BARLEY AND RICE FROM IRAQ, EGYPT: Supply Ministry sources have reported that agreement was reached with Iraq and Egypt to buy barley and rice. According to Al Dostour, two delegations will be dispatched to Egypt and Iraq to ensure the implementation of the two deals. (Petra)

GUVS makes JD 213,038 contributions in 1988

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) made contributions totalling JD 213,038 to Jordanian charitable and voluntary societies last year to help them carry out their programmes, according to a GUVS statement Monday.

It said that societies in Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Mafrqa, Karak, Ma'an and Tafleeh governorates benefited from the contributions to help implement a total of 203 projects.

Amman had the lion's share of the contributions, altogether receiving JD 131,007, for 106 projects, the statement noted.

The statement said that the funds financed the construction of buildings, the purchase of com-

puters and the installation of facilities for children, in addition to carrying out income-generating projects and vocational and health centres, and supporting rehabilitation centres for the handicapped.

The statement noted that GUVS, in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), provided JD 50,250 worth of in-kind contributions for an additional 20 projects carried out in Amman, Tafleeh, and Ma'an.

GUVS-USAID contributions included equipment and facilities for vocational training, rehabilitation centres and a children library.

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Aselmann
Hashwa
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Give peace a chance

THANKS are due for British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave for reminding the Israeli leaders of today, especially Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, of their terrorist past. These Israeli leaders have gotten way out of hand lately in abusing the term terrorism to buttress their false claims against talking to the PLO. Of all people Yitzhak Shamir and his clique should be the first to recognise the old adage: if your house was made of glass you should not throw stones at others. The ridiculous stance of the current Israeli leaders on the credentials of the PLO leadership as lawful interlocutors for the resolution of the Palestinian conflict has exasperated even the friends and allies of Tel Aviv to the extent that led the British minister to lecture Israeli leaders from Tunis where he was holding talks with Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday that "the world is changing around them (Israeli leaders), and if they do not change they will be left behind." Waldegrave went on to tell the Israeli leaders from afar that "the founding fathers of Israel — including the present prime minister of Israel — were in their time involved in what we at the time described as terrorism..." What more apt words can the international community use to cut to proper size the Israeli arguments against negotiating with the PLO. Waldegrave's statement should put an effective end to the cycle of arguments about the role that "terrorism" should be allowed to play in the vain effort to frustrate the Arab hand that is already over-extended for peace between Israelis and Arabs, including the Palestinians.

In short, instead of wasting time on semantics, Israel would be better advised to heed the counsel of Great Britain and not to waste the window of opportunity that was opened by the Arab side. For the opportunity may not recur before another major conflagration hits the Middle East region when Israelis and Arabs would shed much unnecessary blood. The Israeli people are therefore called upon to reject the thesis of their current elders, who are rejecting the genuineness of the PLO offer of peace, and accept the call for peace from the Arab side for real. The Arab side earnestly asks of the Israeli people to give the cause of peace a chance. The alternative would be abysmal to both sides.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday commented on President Reagan's farewell address to the American nation in which he discussed major world issues except the Middle East. Reagan did not say a single word about the Arab-Israeli conflict nor about the injustice to which the Palestinians have been subjected over so many years, the paper added. It said that Reagan preferred to leave the White House after eight long years without leaving behind him any positive gesture to be commended by the Arab Nation when ever American policies come up for discussion. Perhaps the Arabs' experience with the Reagan administration was the most bitter of all others since it brings to memory the Israeli occupation of Beirut, the raid on Tunis and the Iraqi nuclear plant and the Iran-Iraq war, all of which took place in the past eight years with backing and support by the American administration to the common enemies of the Arab World, the paper pointed out. But it said that the past bitter experience with the Reagan government should not prevent us from being optimistic that the new administration which takes over on Friday will take a new and realistic view of the Middle East and the rest of the world's problems.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Monday on Israeli propaganda campaigns against the Arab Nation in general and the PLO in particular. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Israeli radio broadcasts are clearly aimed at sowing dissension among the Arabs and shaking their self confidence. The writer cites a number of contradictory statements by the Israeli radio about the resistance activity inside the occupied territories and says that Israel which always tries to fish in muddy waters has now lost all credibility and the Arab masses can no more believe anything broadcast by its information services. The writer refers to Israel's campaign advocating what was called as the "Jordanian option" and repeated the calls to open negotiations with Jordan both of which have been rejected and can no more be used as a plot to deceive the Arab masses. Israel's information media have become totally bankrupt and the world at large and the Arabs in particular can only scoff at the lies and falsehoods fabricated by the Israeli leaders. Rimawi notes. He says that it is encouraging to see foreign nations no more deceived by the Israeli propaganda campaigns and are searching for the truth about the situation in the Middle East.

Al Dustour daily commented on the Kingdom's Arbor Day celebrations and the ceremony held under the patronage of His Majesty the King. The King's statement at the ceremony and his urging of Jordanian citizens to plant as many trees as possible to green the country reflect the King's keenness on mobilising the people's efforts to build for the future, the paper said. For the King and the Jordanian family the land is the primary source of income and power and the backbone of the national economy and this places additional responsibilities on the Jordanian people to double their efforts for a greener country and a stronger economy, the paper said. On Arbor Day, it added, citizens remember the King's directives at the development conference in November in which he underlined the need for the Kingdom to attain self-sufficiency and to complete the greening of Jordan by the year 2000.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also dwelt on the same subject of tree planting and the benefits of a green country. The planting of trees in Jordan is a tradition initiated by the founder of the Kingdom, the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, and Sunday's celebrations marked a dear occasion to Jordanians who had maintained the tradition for 50 years, the paper noted. The planting of trees, the paper said, is also an implementation of resolutions and recommendations taken by the comprehensive development conference last year which called for additional efforts to promote agriculture and green the Kingdom.

By Naseem Abdallah

WASHINGTON — The pundits have acquired the new crystal gazing gear for 1989 and the first predictions are out. Global economy, it can now be said with expert confidence will slow down in the new year but the downward movement of indices should not be bad news after all. Up to a point.

This slowdown is important in order to ease the increasing inflationary pressures, especially in the USA and the U.K., counsels the American Express Bank team of experts including Richard O'Brien and John Calverley. Since the economies of major industrial countries invariably manage to cast their shadows on virtually all other countries, including more and more the ambivalent socialist countries, the message for all concerned seems to be: Beware, inflation is on way but the cure will follow soon. The prescribed cure of course is slower growth, not desirable for many of the developing countries. Which of the two — inflation and stagflation — will be the lesser evil remains at the centre of the debate.

Few experts have decided yet how the slowdown will occur or how fast it will come. Most U.S. experts, for example, seem agreed that a global economic slowdown will not mean zero growth but rather a lower than expected growth. But their analysis is conditional on the slowdown staying so and not deteriorating

into a recessionary cycle.

In Japan there is intense speculation as to whether a slow-down will lead to a recession or whether it will simply stimulate the markets by pushing interest rates down. In Europe, Britain in particular, there is little optimism about interest rates falling in the near future but considerable concern that growth may be hit by a cycle of ever-increasing interest rates. "There's always the risk of an overkill on interest rates," said one analyst.

The last year was full of surprises for most investors and planners, who had anticipated a slump after the October 1987 crash of the stock markets. In 1988 not only growth soared but also the stock markets recovered their confidence within months of being bathed in the Black Monday massacre.

However the year's parting gift was not so pleasant: inflation edged forward in the industrial countries and threatened to transcend borders. The dollar failed to recover as envisaged by the industrial countries' central banks, who poured millions in a recovery drive. The monetary authorities' attempts to stem inflation by raising interest rates were remarkably unsuccessful, particularly in Britain.

The West European and American authorities seem poised to continue to counter each inflationary jump with an interest-rate whiplash. But the pundits are not convinced their play will work either towards

controlling inflation effectively or towards ensuring a smooth "drawdown" of economic growth.

"After the recent rapid growth that we've seen it's not quite

certain whether a smooth transition to slow growth is possible," said one analyst. "If economies can lurch forward they can retreat in confusion, too." The obvious challenge is to avoid an inflation-

ary rise while at the same time protecting economies from the onset of recession.

In the United States, the U.S. budget and the behaviour of the trade deficit remain the two ma-

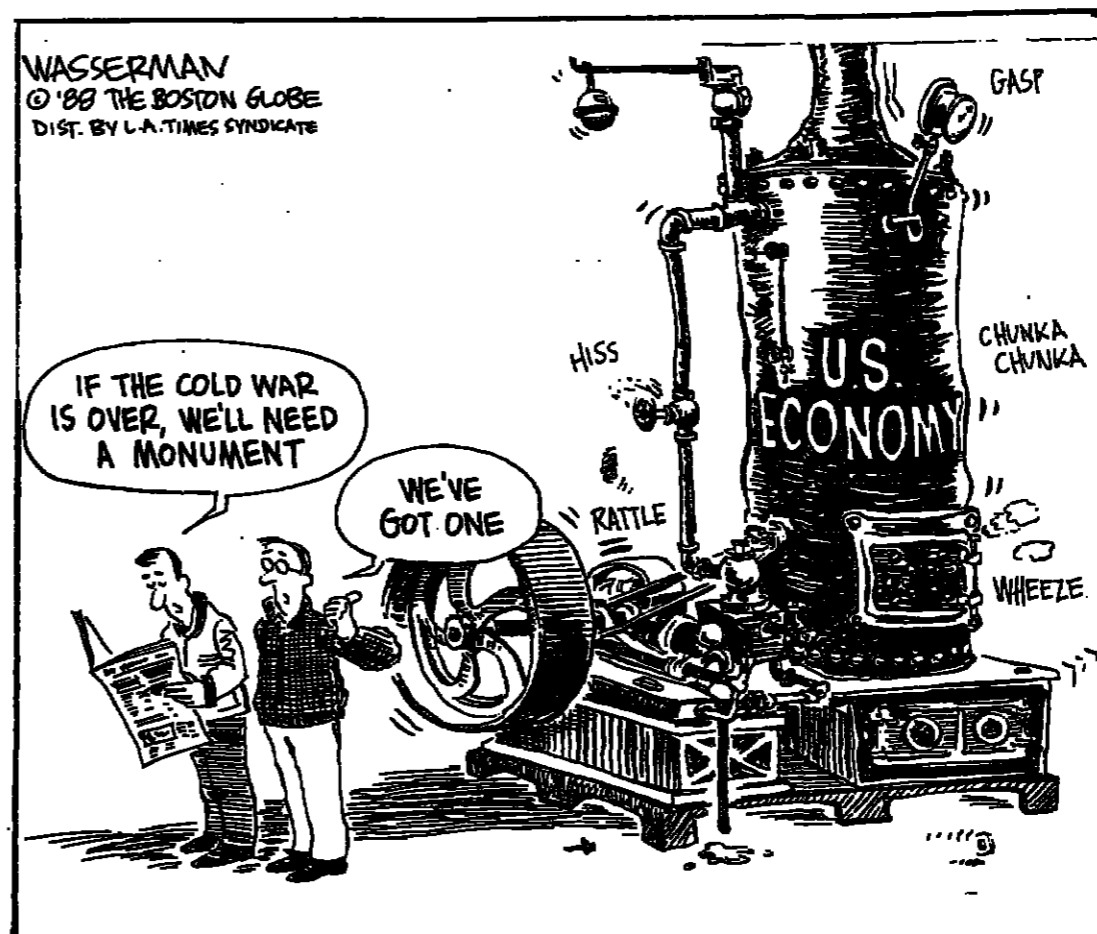
for imponderables with the potential to ruin all other calculated planning. The monthly trade deficit has hovered round the \$11 billion mark since the first quarter of 1988. The U.S. current account also appears set to worsen with the rising costs of servicing the country's \$150 billion debt. Corporate debt and indebtedness of households similarly show no signs of abating.

Against those imponderables must be placed the Federal Reserve Board's aim of keeping inflation low by slowing down U.S. growth to no more than 2.5 per cent from about 3.5 per cent in 1988 and 4.8 per cent in 1987.

As elsewhere in the deficit economies of the industrial world, the Fed has been straining to cut consumption growth as part of the anti-inflation drive, but without apparent success. Experts point out that because the Fed's campaign has been accompanied by one interest rate rise after another, there is always the risk that the fight against inflation will rebound on the U.S. economy and bring on a recession.

"The Fed is evidently not aiming for a recession, but there's no guarantee that it won't inadvertently cause one now," said one stockbroker. In the 1979-81 period, he said, the Fed wanted a recession but failed to trigger it. However, if a recession hits the United States now, the consequences could be lethal for its heavily indebted economy. They could be quite unpredictable for the rest of the world. — Academic File.

World economy slowing down but...



Vietnam-China talks open way to regional peace

By David Storey

Reuter

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — A breakthrough in relations between Vietnam and China marks a new approach to peace in Southeast Asia and is a vital step towards a comprehensive settlement in Kampuchea, Western diplomats have said.

They said sudden diplomatic action to tend the bleeding wounds of Kampuchea, used as a proxy battlefield for two decades, reflected changing priorities by China and the Soviet Union.

It also resulted from a pragmatic reassessment of security and economic needs by the countries directly involved, in particular Vietnam and Thailand, with a shift to dependence on regional alliances rather than superpower protection.

"The decision by (Soviet President) Mikhail Gorbachev to mend fences with China and China's redefining of obstacles to such moves created the circumstances for a Kampuchean settlement," one Western diplomat said.

"But all this could not have happened if Vietnam had not calculated that it should move faster towards a settlement. It has seen itself dropping back economically in relation to all its partners — in (the Communist bloc's) Comecon, the Non-Aligned Movement, and, of course, against ASEAN (the Association of South East Asian Nations)."

Using a formulation adopted by Thai Prime Minister Chuanrich Choonhavan that has become a catch phrase for the new trend in regional policies, the diplomat said: "Vietnam can only improve its own situation in the market place, not on the battlefield."

Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Minister Dinh Ho Liem flew to Peking at the weekend for a week of talks on all aspects of Sino-Vietnamese relations, the first such talks since Liem negotiated a ceasefire in their border war in 1979.

The visit was not announced in Vietnam or in China but well-placed Vietnamese sources said Liem would be preparing for a milestone trip to China by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, probably in the next two months.

Thach, a wily and charming master of the art of patient diplomacy, is seen in Vietnam as having waged a brilliant strategy to extricate the country from its 10-year military engagement in Kampuchea.

It was Soviet backing that enabled Vietnam to invade its western neighbour in 1978, ousting the Khmer Rouge government, which had been supported by Peking for nearly four years of rule.

Western governments say more than one million people were killed during Khmer Rouge Prime Minister Pol Pot's fanatical cultural revolution.

Since then, Kampuchea, an impoverished country of rice-growers, has been hindered from recovery under its Communist leadership by a continuing war against the remains of the Khmer Rouge and other opposition forces.

Armed and supplied by China and Thailand, they operate from

camp along the Thai-Kampuchea border.

Diplomats say that maintaining the conflict suited Peking's interest until it could bring a real dialogue with Moscow, its top priority.

The conflict kept pressure on Vietnam, Peking's long-time enemy, and maintained the spotlight on the Soviet role in the region.

A year of largely secret diplomacy bore fruit this month when Vietnam announced it would withdraw by September all its forces from Kampuchea, which it says number 50,000 men, if a political settlement can be reached: in other words, if China and Thailand halt their support for the guerrillas.

China publicly welcomed the announcement and has made clear it was prepared to cut its military aid.

Thus, the stage was set for the visit to Hanoi last week by Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila and the even more important journey by Liem to Peking.

The shift in Thai policies has been fast and extreme.

Siddhi himself was one of the architects of the hardline ASEAN stance demanding an immediate withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

Siddhi denied in Vietnam that Thailand gave sanctuary to the guerrillas but aid workers and others who have travelled in the border areas have seen armed guerrillas inside Thailand with Thai army logistical support.

Now Thailand has buried the hatchet with Vietnam.

Siddhi and a beaming Thach declared after their talks in Hanoi: "We will work together to bring peace to Kampuchea." The Thai minister said he looked forward to helping Vietnam's economic recovery after the proposed September pullout.

Diplomats said improved Soviet relations with Thailand and the other ASEAN states — Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei — had helped create a climate in which mutual practical needs might replace a balance of confrontation as the way to ensure security.

Liem's goal in Peking will be to find ways to settle points of conflict with Vietnam's giant northern neighbour as well as pin down more details on the halt in aid to Kampuchean guerrillas, diplomats said.

"They believe Peking and Moscow would like a Kampuchean settlement hammered out well before their summit meeting in Peking this summer."

Liem was also expected to press for renewed trade with China. This would benefit particularly the north of Vietnam, whose failure to match the pace of recovery of the more capitalist-oriented south is causing political tension.

The need for economic reconstruction has become paramount for the Vietnamese, especially under the reformist leadership that began to open up to the international and regional mainstream two years ago after decades of ideologically-based mistrust of foreign interference.

By Lisa Genasci

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — A tourist boat disaster that killed 52 has sparked a nationwide outcry against what Brazilians say is the impunity of the country's rich and powerful and a general disrespect for law.

In public demonstrations, residents have made the tragedy a public forum to rail against the general feeling that in this nation of 144 million, if you do something wrong — from running red lights to hiring a professional killer — you can get away with it if you have enough influence or money.

"Some of the worst vices of the Brazilian soul came to light the moment the boat sank: facility to bribe, irresponsibility and the failure to assist fellow citizens in trouble," the respected Rio daily *Jornal Do Brasil* said in an editorial.

"Enough," was the five-centimetre-high headline this week on the cover of Brazil's largest news magazine, *Veja*.

"The country is fed up with negligence and abuse and wants exemplary punishment for crimes such as the sinking of the Bateau Mouche IV," *Veja* said.

Though there is no accurate count, most estimates indicate 150 revelers were on the Bateau Mouche pleasure boat when it capsized and sank en route to an annual new year's eve fireworks display off famed Copacabana beach.

Survivors say the flat-bottom river boat, originally built for just 20 passengers, was dangerously overcrowded and listing precariously in rough water, and that lifejackets were not readily at hand.

Best-selling novelist bids for Peru presidency

By Ricardo Ritter

Reuter

LIMA — Mario Vargas Llosa, one of Latin America's best-selling novelists, has put aside his pen to run for president of Peru in an electoral bid he sees as more of a crusade than a political campaign.

The 54-year-old writer, three of whose novels have sold more than a million copies around the world, is set to be nominated by a centre-right coalition as its candidate to succeed embattled President Alan Garcia when Peruvians go to the polls in May 1990.

Vargas, who says he is only reluctantly entering the political arena, is widely seen as the one man who can stop a Marxist candidate sweeping to victory on the back of the country's worst economic crisis this century.

Opinion polls suggest the author, whose novels include "The War of the End of the World," "The Time of the Hero" and "Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter," could win the vote.

"I have not left my study and my books to take anybody's job, but to save Peru," Vargas told a recent political rally at which the leaders of the country's two traditional conservative parties pledged their backing.

The dream of prosperity which Garcia offered Peruvians on taking office three years ago has

turned into an economic nightmare, with inflation approaching 2,000 per cent and widespread shortages of basic foodstuffs.

At the same time, the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas, whose eight-year campaign has already cost over 15,000 lives, are becoming increasingly daring in their attacks.

"We need new blood... to get out of the situation the current government has tragically placed us in," Luis Bedoya Reyes, whose Popular Christian Party is one of those backing Vargas, told the rally.

Fernando Belaunde Terry, who became Peru's first civilian president at the end of 12 years of military rule in 1980, also pledged the support of his Popular Action Party.

Belaunde said the two groups would join forces with the Liberty Party, launched by Vargas last year, to promote the author's candidacy, which would be formally announced in April.

Peru's conservatives, who had been all but eclipsed by left-of-centre parties, have gained strength as the economic and political crisis focuses criticism on the populist policies of Garcia's Social Democratic government.

A recent opinion poll published by the private Apoyo Institute gave Vargas as a narrow lead over the principle Marxist candidate with 29 per cent of the vote.

There are accusations that port authority guards who inspected the Bateau Mouche just two hours before it went down were paid off to allow it to venture into the open sea.

The navy and the police are bickering about who should investigate the sinking. Many here fear that — as has happened so often in Latin America's largest country, in highway and maritime tragedies, fires and collapses of buildings and freeways — no one will be held responsible.

In 1981, for example, two riverboat sinkings in inland Amazon waters claimed about 500 lives. Both were blamed on overcrowding, yet no one was ever prosecuted or otherwise punished.

"The sinking of the Bateau Mouche is a portrait of our reality," prominent political commentator Alexandre Garcia said in a syndicated newspaper column. "We were already irresponsible: now we are becoming inhuman."

"There is a cultural tradition of disregarding security norms, of negligence," lawyer Evaristo de Moraes, who has been retained by the Bateau Mouche owners in case of criminal proceedings, said on television. "We need to look at our mentality, which believes that laws are always flexible."

De Moraes said, however, that in the case of the boat disaster, "I am convinced my clients had no responsibility whatsoever."

Indeed, one of the boat's own-

ers initially told reporters that "panic among the passengers" caused the tragedy. But Fabricio Calo, a 38-year-old Sao Paulo businessman who saved himself and his wife from drowning, said: "You can't call what happened an accident."

Paulo Soares, whose 50-year-old father-in-law, Camilo da Costa, was the Bateau Mouche's captain and one of the victims, told the Associated Press: "Camilo didn't want to go out. He called us to say the boat was overloaded and sea was too rough. But he had no choice. He would lose his job if he didn't sail."

Brazilians are proud of what they call the *jeitinho*, or "little way," of cutting through red tape, avoiding a traffic ticket or eliminating other problems that has become a part of everyday life. There is a whole professional category known as *despachantes*, whose job basically consists of paying off the right people.

A recent prime-time soap opera, *vale tudo* ("anything goes"), in which greed, conniving, corruption and deceit were the principal characters' main traits, drew ratings of 80 per cent.

"We're living in a very individualistic society," sociologist Helio Jaguaribe said. "There's a sense that if you abide by the law, someone will get the better of you."

Part of the problem, he said, is that Brazilians have no faith in their criminal justice system. Many don't bother to register robberies with police, believing it

will do no good. It is not uncommon for bands of angry citizens to take justice into their own hands, beating and stoning to death suspected criminals.

But it isn't exclusively a lack of respect for laws that has generated a sense of impunity. Deputy Justice Minister Luis Eichenberg told the AP.

"This also has grown from a tremendous lack of human and material resources," Eichenberg said. "We often are physically and financially unable to enforce the law."

Jaguaribe said the indignation provoked by this disaster is a sign that "tolerance of impunity and greed has been stretched to its limits." He cited last November's municipal elections in which left-wing candidates won mayoral seats in important state capitals.

Brazilians likewise have rallied around the December shooting death of internationally known ecologist Francisco Mendes, who defended the Amazon ecology and poor peasants against the interests of powerful landowners. Many of the landowners employ private gunmen to eliminate enemies.

According to Amnesty International, the London-based human-rights organisation, about 1,000 peasants, ecologists and Catholic priests — who defend landless farmers — have been killed in land disputes in Brazil since 1980. Prosecutions were pursued in only three cases, the organisation says.

opposition to Garcia's plan to nationalise the banking system.

On the electoral stump around the country, he has concentrated his attacks on the government's economic record.

Vargas, an economic free-marketeer, has said he would renew contacts with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the international banks which have been severed by Garcia's policy of unilaterally limiting payments on the country's \$16.4 billion foreign debt.

Vargas, who describes himself as a liberal, leapt into the political limelight in 1987 with his public



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Kremlin calls for drastic austerity

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government, painting a grim picture of the national economy in a report published Sunday, called on industry and local political leaders to adopt drastic austerity measures.

Although the economy grew 4.4 per cent in 1988, faster than in previous years, farms and factories were not producing enough goods to satisfy growing incomes and much of what they did produce was still of low quality, a government statement said.

Pay is growing faster than productivity, in what economists say appears to raise the prospect of inflation which has finally been officially acknowledged as a problem. In addition, new technology is being introduced too slowly.

Other figures showed that exports fell by two per cent last year and imports rose by 6.5 per cent, virtually halving the Soviet trade surplus.

Judging by the report, part of this worsening may have been due to the import of 30 billion roubles (\$50 billion) worth of food in the last three years. Officials have also pointed to harm through a fall in the price of oil, a key Soviet export.

The new report, issued after a government meeting, followed fears expressed by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev that the failure of economic reforms to bring concrete results could weaken support for his parallel political reforms.

Last week, Gorbachev warned in a speech of the political dangers of a budget deficit caused by

a mixture of neglect, heavy defence spending, lower revenue from state alcohol sales and the devastating Armenian earthquake last month.

"The radical economic reform has so far not had a proper effect on the intensification of production," said the report, published in the communist party newspaper Pravda.

"The state of affairs has been aggravated by the fact that the population's income and expenses are not balanced in practically all sections of the country. The mass of money in circulation is not backed up by goods and paid services."

The report criticised the leadership of seven of the 15 republics, including the Russian Federation, home to half the country's population, and urged sweeping changes by both them and the leaders of industry.

They should "take drastic measures to effect a saving of state funds, to cut down centralised capital investments, (and) to draw into use stocks of material assets over and above the plan norms," it said.

They were also urged to ensure Soviet workers actually earned the higher incomes they have been paid in recent years by bringing income growth in line with the growth in productivity.

Idle equipment

Pravda mentioned earlier that billions of dollars worth of machinery the Soviet Union bought with foreign bank loans is sitting idle, resulting in huge industrial production losses.

In an article on foreign credits to the Soviet Union, it quoted specialists at the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs as saying the credits had a positive role to play in reforming the economy if they were used responsibly.

"We know it hasn't always been that way. For example, as of Jan. 1, 1988, the stocks of imported equipment bought with foreign credits and left in the storehouses of enterprises and construction sites amounted to 4.6 billion roubles (\$7.5 billion)," Pravda said.

"The resulting losses in production were more than three billion roubles (\$4.9 billion)," it said.

The statement echoed an article that appeared on the front page of the government newspaper Izvestia a day before.

It complained that expensive foreign equipment bought for food processing and other Soviet agro-industries was not being used by the agricultural bureaucracy, Gosagroprom.

"On the whole in Gosagroprom, the imported equipment that is not installed is worth 570 million roubles (\$934 million)," Izvestia said.

Pravda said Western reports that the Soviet Union had re-

ceived \$9 to \$10 billion worth of credits from Western countries were exaggerated and included not only current loans but also proposed credits for the future.

It did not reveal the total volume of the foreign credit lines, saying only that Soviet foreign borrowing traditionally did not exceed three per cent of the "general volume of the investment in the economy."

It was not clear whether that referred to capital investment, which in 1987 was 203.5 billion roubles (\$333.6 billion), according to the State Committee on Statistics. Three per cent of that figure is 6.1 billion roubles (\$10 billion).

Lowest harvest in 3 years

On food production, the Soviet grain harvest in 1988 was 195 million tonnes, the lowest for three years, a Soviet official announced Monday.

The figure was considerably worse than Western experts had predicted.

Stepan Sitaryan, first deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee, told a news conference the figure was preliminary.

In 1987, Soviet farmers harvested 211.3 million tonnes while the figure for 1986 was 210.1 million tonnes. The target for 1988 was 235 million tonnes.

Sitaryan said the figure brought the average yield for the past three years to 205 million tonnes, which he said was an improvement over an average of 185 million during the previous five-

year plan.

Soviet officials had predicted that the harvest was likely to fall short of the 1987 yield, but the figure disclosed Monday was well below Western estimates. The U.S. Agriculture Department had put the figure at about 205 million tonnes.

The International Wheat Council, an international trading organisation, had forecast a crop of 200 million tonnes.

Foreign grain market analysts said a below-target harvest may have been a factor in a decision by the Soviet Union to sign a new grain imports agreement with the United States late last year.

Under the agreement, the Soviet Union will continue to buy nine million tonnes of U.S. grain annually over the next two years.

It followed eight months of tough negotiations in which the Soviet side was said to have pressed initially for more flexibility on the minimum volume it would guarantee to buy from U.S. farmers.

Sitaryan did not give the figure for harvest of crops other than grain.

Gorbachev, meeting regional communist party chiefs and agricultural specialists last week, called for a new land programme to boost production and said Soviet agrarian policy was bogged down.

Officials have called for urgent measures to improve food supplies, a source of popular discontent as shortages of basic foodstuffs affect virtually all the population.

Norway faces more belt-tightening

OSLO (R) — Finance Minister Gunnar Berge told Norway's workers Monday they would have to settle for modest pay rises to help the economy recover from weak oil prices.

He said the government felt positive about the economy of Western Europe's number two oil producer now. Inflation was down and Norway had its best trade surplus for nearly five years in December.

But Berge told Reuters in an interview that he would not be cutting interest rates again in his efforts to fatten up the economy and cut the jobless queues before wage talks with trade unions next month.

There was a chance of a further cut after the pay settlement "providing... wage growth is below that in the countries we trade with," he said. "That means that it must be clearly under four per cent."

Annual pay negotiations have been a key element in the Labour government's attempts to restore order to the economy.

Huge pay rises in recent years boosted both domestic demand for goods and industry's costs, hitting its ability to compete. Then North Sea oil prices slumped in 1986 in a worldwide glut.

Last year, the government imposed a wage law that virtually froze pay. The law, accepted by the unions, lasts until March.

"Our assessment is that the economic development has been very positive," Berge said. In 1986 when the minority Labour government came to power "we believed we faced the most comprehensive restructuring operation in Norway since the war."

Inflation has now fallen to below six per cent. The December trade surplus was worth around \$220 million. Interest rates are

down from record levels and oil prices are up around 40 per cent since last autumn.

But Berge said: "What we still need to do is to get sufficient, broad growth in competitive industries."

Large parts of Norwegian industry have in the past received extensive state subsidies aimed at maintaining full employment. But the government has announced cuts in subsidies this year.

Labour's squeeze on the economy has increased unemployment to 3.5 per cent of the workforce, its highest in four years.

Unemployment "is our great worry at the moment," Berge said. "But there is... no alternative other than to keep a cool head and take the time necessary to get resources, capital and labour into the competitive sector of the economy."

Nigeria opens industry to foreigners

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's President Ibrahim Babangida has announced that wide areas of manufacturing industry were being opened to 100 per cent foreign ownership.

In a speech, Babangida said the new policy was aimed at attracting investment and encouraging the private sector to take the lead in building up the economy.

"What accrued from past policies that involved government's huge investment were white elephant projects that could neither yield revenue nor pay their way," he declared.

The old policies were responsible for unemployment, underdevelopment and shortages of raw materials, he added.

Babangida announced a major change in the country's enterprise promotion decree, which

restricted foreign investment in broad areas of Nigerian business to a 40 per cent stake.

A wide range of businesses were now open to unlimited foreign involvement, and a foreigner putting up 20 million naira (\$2.9 million) or more would be free to operate in restricted areas involving the small manufacturing, commercial and service sectors.

But the 40 per cent limit will remain in the banking, insurance, petroleum prospecting and mining industries.

"This is a quite dramatic new development," said Rasheed Gbadamosi, chairman of the National Industrial Development Bank.

"Major manufacturing areas like petrochemicals, car manufacturing and computers are now wide open for foreign investment.

It is an excellent move, particularly seen in conjunction with the government's privatisation plans," he noted.

The government's privatisation programme is due to kick off this month with the offer for sale of most of its 7.8 million shares in flour mills of Nigeria Ltd.

One fifth of its 60 per cent share in African Petroleum should follow soon under the plan to totally privatise 67 companies and partially privatise a further 25 by the end of 1991.

Babangida said Nigeria Airways, the Nigerian Railways Corporation and the Nigeria Electricity Power Authority (NEPA) were among those which seemed to have lost sight of their potential, but there was no plan to hive these off to private enterprise.

Japanese seek higher salaries

TOKYO (R) — Japanese workers, already among the highest paid in the world, plan to press for even higher pay in wage negotiations this year.

Organised labour has announced demands for an average six to eight per cent increase for the annual wage negotiations, called "shunto" (spring labour offensive), starting in March.

Economists expect actual increases to average about five per cent.

"In this year offensive, there is no reason for management to offer low wage increases because of very favourable corporate performance," said Yoshihiro Furukane, senior economist at Yamaichi Research Institute of Securities and Economics.

Most Japanese companies have yet to announce the negotiation positions but at least one major steelmaker, NKK Corp, has said it will not offer any basic wage increase at all but rather raise its annual bonus.

Most large Japanese companies offer bonuses of one to three months' salary once or twice a year. Some bonuses are based on company performance.

Japan's largest labour organisation Rengo has set a target demand of an average six to eight per cent wage rise for 1989/90. The second-largest union association, Sohyo, plans to seek at least an average eight per cent wage rise.

"We expect an average five to 5.2 per cent wage increase, against this fiscal year's (to March 31) average of 4.4 per cent," said Koichi Yano, an economist at Mitsubishi Research Institute.

"If wages rise at this level or a little higher it will not adversely affect inflation, it will boost private consumer spending while prices are stable," Yano said.

Management emphasis will be on cutting consumer prices and work hours, rather than on wages, said an official of the Japanese Federation of Employers' Association (Nikkeiren).

Relying on sweat, sacrifice

Brazil imposes new shock measures

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian banks were ordered closed Monday and Tuesday to give the nation's economy time to absorb sweeping economic restructuring meant to cut annual inflation of 1,000 per cent and to stimulate growth.

The government Monday imposed new shock measures to the economy that included massive public spending cuts and a wage and price freeze.

In a nationwide television and radio broadcast, President Jose Sarney said he was "not implementing a new economic package, rather calling people to work together on a programme of national salvation."

"No democracy can be preserved in a situation of hyperinflation," Sarney said. "He need to summon our courage to make sure that we don't see blood and tears. To avoid that, we must rely on our sweat and sacrifice."

Sarney called Brazilians to wage "total war against inflation

using the toughest weapons and most profound measures Brazil has ever taken to confront inflation."

He appealed to Brazilians to "fight for your rights" to make sure supermarkets and restaurants follow the price freeze.

The plan is the fourth major package of economic measures imposed by Sarney, who took office in March of 1985, ending 21 years of repressive, right-wing military rule.

Sarney said there would have to be "great national comprehension" to implement the measures, which included:

— A price freeze for an indefinite period on basic consumer items;

— A wage freeze starting in February, when workers will receive their last increase to correct for inflation based upon average cost of living rises over the past 12 months;

— A 17 per cent devaluation of the cruzado currency;

— Creation of the "new cruzado," worth 1,000 old ones;

— Ending of the automatic monthly inflation indexing of wages, rents, commercial payments and government interest rates, which will from now on be adjusted according to "pre-fixing" of the index corrector at an artificially low rate;

— Firing of about 60,000 civil servants;

— Elimination of five cabinet ministries;

— Dramatic increase in interest rates and new limits on credit purchases, designed to hold down consumer spending.

Sarney said the plan was to slash Brazil's 1,000 per cent annual inflation, cut the budget deficit — now at six per cent of the gross national product (GNP), and widely believed to fuel inflation — and stimulate the economy. Last year the GNP grew only 0.04 per cent, while industrial growth fell 2.23 per cent over the previous year, government figures show.

Union leaders immediately criticised the elimination of the monthly safety net index. Union figures show that over the past two years, workers have lost as much as 40 per cent of buying power to inflation.

"We weren't consulted about the measures, which will once more cut into workers' salaries," said Luiz Medeiros, leader of the Sao Paulo Metal Workers' Union. "I have no doubts angry workers will react negatively and they will have our support in organising a nationwide strike."

Brazil's past measures, though initially successful, have been unable to contain runaway inflation.

Perhaps the best remembered is the 1986 "cruzado plan," which included a wage and price freeze that wobbled off a consumer spending spree and degenerated into black marketeering, hoarding and product shortages when producers said they couldn't meet demand at the government-set prices.

agreement will succeed for three, four or six months, but the continuation of price stability for a long time is not likely," he noted.

Mabro said OPEC's problems could not be blamed on its declining share of world oil production. "The share of OPEC is now amply sufficient to control the market as it wants... on condition that it acts as a single bloc," he said.

Rising output from independent producers halved OPEC's share of world oil production from 1967 to 1987 to around 30 per cent. But OPEC still accounts for more than half the world's oil exports.

Meanwhile, OPEC Secretary-General Subroto Monday called for early ministerial talks between OPEC and other oil exporters in efforts to cooperate on curbing excess supply and supporting prices.

Experts from OPEC and from non-member producers are to meet in London Jan. 26 to discuss such a meeting. Subroto told OPEC's News Agency OPECNA.

Experts from non-OPEC countries Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, North Yemen and Oman are to confer in London with experts from OPEC members Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

"Maybe the (current OPEC)

Expert sees firm oil prices through March

KUWAIT (R) — An international energy expert has predicted OPEC will keep world oil prices rising until March but may face problems after that because of output quota violations and high production last year.

"There will be a relative increase in the next two to three months, until March," Robert Mabro, director of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, said Sunday night in a lecture to the Kuwait Economic Society.

But he said the outlook thereafter depended on how much oil was produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) during the last quarter of 1988.

He also predicted production discipline in the 13-nation group

would eventually break down, putting pressure on world oil prices later this year.

Oil prices have firmed about \$3 a barrel since OPEC agreed last November to cut output to 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d) in the first half of this year. But prices are still about \$3 below OPEC's target of \$18.

Industry sources polled by Reuters put OPEC output in the last quarter of 1988 at 22.3 million b/d, well above a self-imposed output ceiling then in force of 15.06 million b/d excluding Iraq.

"If production (in the 1988 fourth quarter) was an average of 21.5 million to 23 million b/d... then prices must decline again (after March). If there was exag-

geration in these figures... maybe there will be a balance between supply and demand and prices will remain relatively high," he said.

Mabro said long-term prospects for output discipline within OPEC were weak because it contained blocs of producers with different interests and because of individual quota disputes.

The United Arab Emirates and Ecuador, for example, have consistently exceeded quotas set for them since 1982, Mabro said.

"Maybe the price will reach \$18. Maybe it will hit \$20. But I am pessimistic on the continuation of price stability at the level OPEC wants in the long run," he said.

"Maybe the (current OPEC)

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, Jan. 16, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	77.2	77.6
U.S. dollar	486.0	488.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.8	383.7
Round Sterling	839.4	863.7	Dutch guilder	233.2	234.4
Deutschmark	263.2	264.5	Swedish crown	77.1	77.5
Swiss franc	308.7	310.2	Italian lira (for 100)	36.9	36.1
			Belgian franc (for 10)	125.6	126.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7615/25	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1987/97	Canadian dollar
	1.8535/45	Deutschemarks
	2.0920/30	Dutch guilders
	1.5820/30	Swiss francs
	38.81/84	Belgian francs
	6.3200/50	French francs
	1358/1359	Italian lire
	127.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.3110/60	Swedish crowns
	6.7325/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.1730/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	401.50/401.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed lower largely on gloomy forecasts about Australian and U.S. trade figures due to be announced this week. Volume was thin. The All Ordinaries index lost 5.8 to 1,512.2.

TOKYO — Market closed for national holiday. HONG KONG — The market consolidated gains of last week but prices finished off the day's highs. The Hang Seng index rose 12.69 to 2,856.67.

SINGAPORE — Prices were firmer on strong buying interest and one analyst said further rises were likely. The Straits Times industrial index rose 8.72 to 1,107.91.

BOMBAY — Concerted buying by state-owned financial institutions helped shares gain ground in cautious trading. There was little other support as the market kept to the sidelines to await results of elections in three Indian states.

FRANKFURT — The dollar's sharp rise to around 1.85 marks revived market fears inflation was rising and could prompt higher domestic interest rates. The real time 30-share DAX index closed at 1,344.11, 9.14 points down.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed steady to lower in fairly moderate trading. The firmer dollar and higher close on Wall Street had little impact on the market. The all-share Swiss index was virtually unchanged at 975.2.

PARIS — Open outcry trading on blue chips continued to be halted by midday because of a one-day strike by bourse employees which kept many investors away. The 50-share bourse indicator was down 0.9 per cent.

LONDON — Equities were off highs reached just before midday in late trading, with low volume and profit-taking combining to limit the gains. At 1540 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was up 8.4 to 1,870.5.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were about unchanged in morning trading with U.S. bond and currency markets closed. The Dow was close to Friday's close at 2,225.

Koreas agree to high-level talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea agreed Monday to South Korea's proposal to hold the highest-ranking political and military talks on easing their tense relations since the Korean War.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyung Muk, in a letter to his South Korean counterpart, Kang Young-Hoon, agreed to the South's proposal that they should head their respective delegations at talks to be held alternately in the two capitals.

"The North and South must ease the tension, remove the danger of war and provide a reliable precondition for peaceful reunification as soon as possible," Yon said in a letter delivered at the Panmunjom truce site.

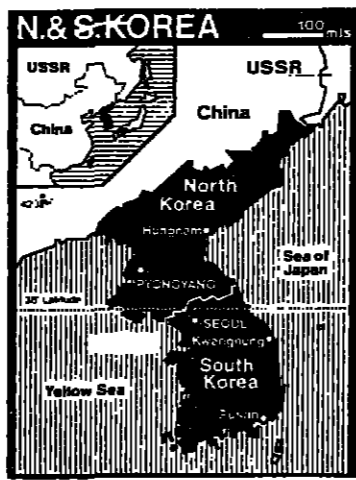
Yon proposed a meeting at Panmunjom Feb. 8, headed by vice ministers to work out terms for full-scale talks. No date was mentioned for the main talks, and the two sides are expected to face problems on agreeing on terms.

Yon repeated the North's demand for separate three-way talks with South Korea and the United States on reducing tension on the divided peninsula. He also demanded an end to the annual South Korea-U.S. "team spirit" military exercises.

"It is obvious to everyone that the North and South cannot fundamentally resolve the question of peace by setting aside the United States, which is the party responsible for the aggravation of tension," the letter said.

South Korea and the United States have rejected the North's demands for separate talks involving the United States, on the grounds that negotiations should be between the two Koreas. About 42,000 U.S. troops are based in the South under a mutual defence treaty against the North.

South Korea agreed last week to the North's initial call for high-level political and military talks on reducing tension. Seoul also proposed the prime ministers head the delegations to make the



N. & S. KOREA

talks the highest since the Korean War.

South Korea's leader is President Roh Tae-woo and North Korea is led by President Kim Il Sung.

While agreeing to upgrade talks to the prime ministerial level, the North's letter rejected the South's proposal for separate economic and Red Cross humanitarian talks. It said economic issues could be resolved once the political issues were resolved, and that Red Cross talks were outside any official control.

Peking, Hanoi seek political settlement in Kampuchea

PEKING (AP) — China acknowledged Monday that a senior Vietnamese official was in Peking for "private consultations" on the civil war in Kampuchea, an issue that has deeply divided the two communist nations for 10 years.

"First deputy foreign minister of Vietnam, Dinh Nho Liem, arrived in Peking Jan. 14 for private consultations with Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing on a political settlement of the Kampuchean question," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry declined comment on how long Liem will stay or whether he will discuss other issues such as a dispute over South China Sea islands that led to several naval clashes between China and Vietnam last year.

Eastern European sources said Liem's visit, the first by a high-ranking Vietnamese official in more than nine years, could pave

the way for a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Co Thach.

The Vietnamese embassy in Peking would say only that Liem will be talking about relations between the two countries and matters of mutual concern.

China had stated it would not hold direct talks with Vietnam before Vietnam removes its troops from Kampuchea where they are fighting rebels backed by the Chinese.

Liem's arrival Saturday night was not reported by the Chinese news media and his welcoming venue was changed to Peking's

old airport, which is used for high-level diplomatic visits. The change was apparently an effort to keep foreign journalists, who had learned he was on a commercial flight from Bangkok, from covering his arrival.

Relations between Peking and Hanoi crumbled after Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in late 1978 to drive the pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge from power. China fought a 20-day border war against Vietnam in 1979 to "punish" the Vietnamese for their military actions in Kampuchea.

China is the main arms supplier to the Khmer Rouge and other rebels in Kampuchea.

Foreign Minister Qian, at a news conference in Paris Saturday, repeated China's stand that the Kampuchean fighting is the major obstacle blocking improved relations with Vietnam. He said Vietnam must take the

initiative by withdrawing its troops as soon as possible. But in recent months, China has taken a more conciliatory stand on some aspects of the Kampuchean conflict in an apparent effort to expedite the peace process.

Last August, China opened direct talks with the Soviet Union, Vietnam's main financial supporter, on Kampuchea, and now says enough progress has been made to hold the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years.

Before then, China said Moscow's backing of Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea was the main obstacle to normalisation of Sino-Soviet relations.

China also has said it does not support allowing the Khmer Rouge to return to power in Kampuchea. The Khmer Rouge were blamed for the deaths of one million Kampuchean

Belgium launches inquiry into ex-premier's abduction

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian police launched a major kidnapping inquiry to find former prime minister Paul Vanden Boeynants who was apparently abducted from a basement garage at his Brussels home at the weekend.

Government officials said Vanden Boeynants, a Christian Democrat, had been worried about recent threats against him. They confirmed that Interior Minister Louis Tobback had agreed to see him Monday.

"Kidnapping is still the most probable theory," chief investigator Andre van Doren told reporters.

Anonymous callers claimed the abduction in the name of the

Socialist Revolutionary Brigades (BSR), a group hitherto unheard of in a country largely free of urban guerrilla activity.

Van Doren said the calls were received before news of the disappearance was made public.

Vanden Boeynants, 69, who made a fortune in the meat industry and in property and served twice as prime minister, disappeared Saturday night after parking his car in a garage at the apartment block where he lived.

At the scene, police found one of his shoes as well as the pipe and hearing aid which were hallmarks of the flamboyant politician.

Van Doren said he needed regular doses of medication for a heart condition that worsened under stress.

A sleek, well-groomed figure, Vanden Boeynants — known simply as VDB — headed governments from 1966-68 and 1978-79 but his political career crashed spectacularly in 1986 when he was convicted of tax fraud and given a three-year suspended sentence.

But the tenacious way he fought the case, recalling the talents that helped him to the top of politics, assured him continuing public popularity and he scored a notable victory in local elections in Brussels last October.

Review of U.S. policy among first tasks for new president

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Bush's foreign policy team plans a sweeping review of U.S. strategic interests to key on changes in the Soviet Union and cope with economic competition from other countries, according to top aides.

Bush, who becomes president Jan. 20, has said that such a review would delay the resumption of arms talks with the Soviets from their Feb. 15 date. And the review is expected to change the Defence Department budget that President Ronald Reagan sent to Capitol Hill this month.

Senior Bush aides, interviewed on condition of anonymity, said the goal is not a radical shift in

U.S.-Soviet relations or in American strategic forces.

Rather, the Bush team wants to "do some long-range planning, to sort of look out ahead, to hypothesize the kind of world that we would like to see, and then to look at the kind of forces that are at work for or against that kind of world," said one man who has been named to a senior post.

Bush and his appointees also plan to seek a diplomatic solution in Central America, said a second senior foreign policy adviser to Bush.

If the diplomatic effort fails to bring greater democracy to Nicar-

agua and end the leftist insurgency against U.S.-backed El Salvador, then the Bush administration might ask Congress to resume military aid to the guerrillas, who have been fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

In the Middle East, the administration also will be seeking to determine whether an international peace conference is possible in the wake of statements by Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat that he opposes the use of terrorism, said an aide.

U.S.-Soviet relations likely will occupy centre stage early in the new administration.

King's birthday remembered

NEW YORK (AP) — On Monday's national holiday in his honour, the Reverend Martin Luther King Junior was remembered from the pulpit by fellow clergymen as a man whose Christian faith inspired a rebirth of freedom.

King was hailed in sermons and speeches Sunday, the day the murdered civil rights leader would have turned 60.

"It's not just a one-day remembrance, but we need to remember every day what he stood for and what he died for," the Reverend Clay Evans, who worked with King, told worshippers at fellowship baptist church in Chicago. "I think we have to make it not just a dream, and not just make it a hollow day... but a holy day."

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, delivered her annual commemorative speech to 1,200 people crammed into Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King and his father were co-pastors.

She urged President-elect George Bush to hold true to his call for "a kinder, gentler nation" by imposing strict sanctions against South Africa and providing direct financial support to "black South Africans who bear the brunt of suffering in that troubled land."

Mrs. King urged Bush to "put behind the politics of the past" by addressing several issues during his term of office: affordable housing, a stepped-up war on



Martin Luther King

drugs and racial violence, and the appointment of federal judges "who are as tough on discrimination as they are on street crimes."

In a speech at a Harlem, New York, church to about 1,500 people, civil rights leader and former Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson said that too many young blacks have a mis-conceived notion of what their civil rights are.

He chastised youngsters who take illegal drugs.

"That is a civil wrong. Dr. King did not die for your right to sniff cocaine and crack and heroin. Stay the dream. Don't betray the dream," Jackson said.

King, born Jan. 15, 1929, was assassinated April 4, 1968, at age 39 on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee. His killer, James Earl Ray, is in prison.

In 1983, after considerable debate, Congress approved creation of a holiday to honour King on the third Monday in January. It was the first holiday honouring a black American. The first official national celebration was held in 1986.

Origin of language may lie in Africa

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A controversial researcher speculates that the human capacity for language may come from a genetic mutation that occurred in a woman who lived in Africa about 200,000 years ago.

Her descendants went on to colonise Europe and Asia, perhaps aided by an ability to speak that had not yet appeared in humans in those areas, said Allan C. Wilson, a biochemist at the University of California.

Wilson's conjectures are based on exhaustive comparisons of genetic material from people around the world.

Two years ago, Wilson attracted the interest of scientists and the public when he concluded that all humans are descendants of a woman in Africa.

Wilson said the woman was not the only female alive at the time, but that the descendants of others did not survive.

In a talk at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Sunday, Wilson said new evidence, including comparisons of human genetic materials with that of chimpanzees and apes, strongly confirm that finding.

That assertion was strongly criticised by some anthropologists, including Milford Wolpoff of the University of Michigan, who said evidence from fossils "clearly and unambiguously contradicts" it.

To buttress his theory, Wilson puzzled over what might have caused early humans in Asia and Europe to have died out, leaving no descendants today.

He then became aware of research by Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza and colleagues at Stanford University that suggested that language emerged about the same time as modern humans evolved in Africa.

Ortega proposes pluralistic opening

MANAGUA (AP) — President Daniel Ortega, following a march by 5,000 opponents, said the Sandinista government plans to give the opposition greater political opportunities.

Ortega also said in a speech Sunday that he would propose severe budget cuts and lay off about half of the government's 80,000 administrative workers.

The peaceful opposition demonstration Sunday was called in memory of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, former publisher of the newspaper La Prensa, and to protest the leftist government's economic management and political repression.

The demonstration, organised by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Committee, united members of 14 opposition parties and several unions.

"We hope to have more demonstrations like this, more unity. There's no reason we can't run a single candidate for president next year," said Carlos Huembes, the coordinating committee's president.

The fragmented opposition parties "are united against the Sandinista government," Huembes said.

Ortega did not refer directly to the demonstration or next year's scheduled elections in a speech hours later to about 1,000 repre-

sentatives of organisations that support the government.

But he said sectors that oppose the government would be given a "pluralistic" opportunity.

He said that those who have been "dreaming of Yankee intervention and the defeat of the revolution," by forces backed by the United States, could "look for their democracy in Miami and stop enriching themselves in Nicaragua."

It was a sarcastic reference to the thousands of Nicaraguans who have fled the country in recent months, many to find themselves homeless in Miami or other parts of the United States.

Ortega admitted Nicaragua's economic condition is "very critical" and said the state's budget would have to be cut.

He gave few specifics except to say the police budget would be protected but that massive layoffs would be required in most departments. On Dec. 31, Ortega had said he would cut the defence budget by 40 per cent.

The opposition march was peaceful, and no incidents or arrests were reported.

Demonstrators complained about economic conditions, saying they were not earning enough money to pay for rice, eggs, beer

Senior ANC leader gets lengthy sentence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Three African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas, including one of the most senior ANC leaders tried in 25 years, were sentenced to lengthy prison terms Monday for treason and terrorism.

A 20-year sentence for treason was imposed on the most prominent defendant, Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim, 51, who was abducted from Swaziland in 1986 by men he said were South African agents.

He has been described as the highest-ranking ANC official to go on trial since Nelson Mandela and several colleagues were given life prison sentences in 1964.

One of Ebrahim's fellow defendants, Mandla Maseko, received a 23-year sentence for treason, and the other, Simon Dladla, received 12 years for terrorism. They were found guilty of laying landmines that injured eight people in Transvaal province in 1986.

Ebrahim, who is of Indian descent, and his codefendants, who are black, turned toward supporters in the gallery at the Pretoria Supreme Court and gave clenched-fist salutes before they

were led away. The outlawed ANC is fighting to topple South Africa's government and overturn the country's policies of racial segregation.

The men were convicted in November after a 16-month trial. At one stage last year, three members of the ANC's executive committee — who faced arrest in South Africa — gave evidence for the defence at a court session held in London.

Ebrahim, along with his co-defendants, did not testify during the trial, but he submitted a 17-page written statement to the court in which he alleged that all three men were tortured by police.

"Finding us guilty is merely a statement that the state considers the struggle for democracy, equality, justice, peace and a non-racial society to be morally and politically reprehensible," he said.

"We wish to say to our people, we tried to carry out your best," Ebrahim wrote. "We did our best to live up to what you expected of us as members of the African National Congress."

History, revolution, folklore guide Managua's postmen

By Alister Doyle

Reuter

MANAGUA — Postmen in Managua do their rounds guided by a haze of history, revolution and folklore — which means the mail arrives erratically, if at all.

The inhabitants abandoned the more usual postal system of named streets with numbered buildings after an earthquake flattened the capital and killed about 10,000 people in 1972.

Now the haunts of old Managua — the bars, dance halls, restaurants and billiard rooms, even the gambling dens and the brothels — which were destroyed in the earthquake survive as wistful street addresses.

The Red Congo, the Purple Turtle, Mama Sara, the Little Tree, the shootout and the Volga Delights are all prominent landmarks in Managua, even though they exist only in the memories of the old and the imaginations of the young.

Other addresses include the Big Game, a bar wrecked in the earthquake where a wealthy gambler lost his fortune one night, and the Little Tree, a restaurant also destroyed in 1972 which survives in the name of a downtown petrol station.

For a long time, one of the landmarks for postmen was a fat lady who always seemed to sit outside her house in the Bolonia residential area. She became part of many nearby addresses after the earthquake. She died a few years ago but her memory lived on in the addresses for a while.

"We have no plans to change the current system," said Mario Lopez, deputy director of the Managua region postal service.

"The postal system is an idiosyncrasy of the Nicaraguan people... we couldn't change it in 10, 20 or 50 years. We would

have to rebuild Managua first," he said.

The survival of old Managua's landmarks shows Nicaraguans have had little time or money to rebuild or relax in the turbulent 17 years since the earthquake.

The 1979 Sandinista revolution which toppled former dictator Anastasio Somoza was preceded by a bloody guerrilla conflict, and the economy is now in ruins after an eight-year war against U.S.-backed guerrillas.

"It's a hard job," said postman Manuel Gonzalez, 26, walking on his rounds in central Managua. "Often it's hard to find the houses, and the sun's hot."

He said it took him about a month to learn his way around the central city area and he still frequently has to ask directions. The Christmas delivery period, which he described as December and January, was especially hard.

One of the most fondly remembered spots in central Managua is a pile of rubble overgrown with weeds, on the corner where Los Balkanes bar used to be.

"The addresses will remain... you ask a child where Los Balkanes was and he'll know," said Gonzalez. Addresses are given as instructions from one of the landmarks. "Towards the lake" is north, "towards the mountain" is south, "up" is east, towards the sunrise, and "down" is west.

The government has replaced all place names linked to Somoza with names taken from the revolution and its heroes. But in some cases Somoza's memory lives on.

His former residence, El Retiro, has been taken over by the National Sports Institute, but most Nicaraguans remember it as Somoza's house.

The government has

rationalised the city into 15 postal zones and 42 sectors, and there is a yearly publicity drive to remind its one million people where they live, Lopez said.

But every point in Managua can be reached by giving directions from at least 15 well-known landmarks.

"The address where we're sitting now could be described from the Mexican embassy... the Vicky Supermarket... the Lacmiel restaurant or from where the Sandinista Children's Association used to be," he said.

Some streets have been renamed and the house numbered, but the numbers often do not follow a logical sequence.

Lopez estimated that less than five per cent of all mail was misdirected.

In the main post office Carmen Fuentes sat puzzling over a telegram addressed "from where the La Pinata supermarket used to be", as she looked through a pile of mail.

"There's no supermarket called La Pinata," she said. "There never has been and there are no plans to build one."

Many people in Managua, apparently reluctant to trust the mail, prefer to deliver their own letters or rent a box in the main post office.

The subsidised cost of sending a letter across the city is unlikely to be a disincentive. A stamp for a small letter costs four Cordobas, meaning 1,500 letters can be sent for a dollar.

Lopez said that Nicaraguans living abroad had exported the system of old landmark addresses.

"Nicaraguans living in Miami don't use these addresses of avenue such-and-such," he said. "They say 'from the white building', or 'from hotel so-and-so, half a block west'."

COLUMN

France gets first sextuplets

PARIS (AP) — A 29-year-old woman who had been treated for infertility gave birth Saturday to four girls and two boys, the first sextuplets recorded in France, doctors said. Coralie, Gaele, Melanie, Doriane, Cedric and Kevin were born by caesarean section at a maternity clinic at Port Royal, in southern Paris. All were in good health, the clinic said. The mother, Marie Claude Adam, gave birth after 32-and-a-half weeks of pregnancy, said her doctor, Gaston Verdonck. He said the infants weighed between 1,320 kilograms and 1,490 kilograms.

Only one 'Heartbreak Hotel'

PRUDENVILLE, Michigan (AP) — It took Tommy Durden just 22 minutes to write Elvis Presley's mammoth hit "Heartbreak Hotel." But after a lifetime of trying, he has not been able to come up with another big song. Durden, 69, a retired commercial dishwasher repairman, still lives off royalties from the 1956 hit. "Evidently, it is a better song than I thought it was when I wrote it," he said. Durden co-wrote the song with a friend, Mae Boren Axton, while he was playing guitar with smiling Jack Jerrins and his swing billies in Gainesville, Florida. He said he got the idea from a newspaper story about a man who committed suicide while clutching a note that read, "I walk a lonely street." Axton came up with the idea of having lonely street lead to heartbreak hotel. Durden splits royalties three ways with Axton and Presley's estate. "I have given it a lot of thought," he said. "I have come to the conclusion that the good Lord only allows one 'Heartbreak Hotel' to a customer."

'Original Butt Sketch'

DALLAS, Texas (AP) — Artist Krandel Lee Newton is getting ahead by sketching behinds. On warm days, Newton sets up his business called "The Original Butt Sketch" in Dallas' West End, a section of downtown that on weekends attracts thousands to its restaurants and boutiques. And there he is out in the open, sketching with charcoal, his subjects lifting their jackets high enough for Newton and the rest of Dallas to see their posteriors. Clothed, of course. "You'd be surprised, but after I start the first sketch, people just crowd around and I end up doing 60 or 70 on a Friday or Saturday night," Newton said. "Eighty per cent of them are women." He says he is in high demand, travelling all around the country — a festival in Miami last month, an auto convention coming up New Orleans. Newton gets \$10 a sketch.

Stations offer Reagan a job

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If President Ronald Reagan decides to return to sports broadcasting after leaving the White House, he should not have much trouble finding work. Two radio stations, perhaps more intent on publicity than bolstering their staff, say they offered jobs to the outgoing chief executive, whose early career included sportscasting in Des Moines, Iowa. Sister stations KZLA-FM and KLAC-AM are offering Reagan a \$100,000, one-year contract to do a daily sports talk show from his California home. "This is absolutely a 100 per cent bona fide offer," said Robert Novak, marketing director for the twin stations, which play country music and broadcast Los Angeles Lakers basketball and Los Angeles Kings hockey. But no sooner had word of that offer hit the airwaves than Oldies station KRLA-AM topped it with a \$200,000-a-year bid for a morning sports commentary spot. KRLA general manager Bob Moore said he conveyed his offer in a telegram to the White House. "Seeing how Ron's an ex-sports-caster... we thought this would be a good use of his abilities," Moore said.

Dolphins teach Michigan swimmers

GRASSY KEY, Florida (AP) — A college swim team got some tips about the butterfly stroke from some of the world's best swimmers — dolphins. Northern Michigan's 15-member women's squad worked out Wednesday with six dolphins at the dolphin research centre on Grassy Key. "We're basically students of propulsion in the water and who better to learn from than dolphins, the natural experts," said head coach Anne James during the south Florida training excursion.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Gorbachev wants to visit U.K.

LONDON (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has told Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher he would like to set new dates as soon as possible for the official visit to Britain that was postponed by the Armenian earthquake. Thatcher's office said Sunday. Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zamyatin visited Thatcher for 45 minutes at her 10 Downing Street office Sunday night on his return from Moscow and conveyed a verbal message from Gorbachev on a number of international issues, a spokeswoman for the British prime minister said. In the message, Gorbachev confirmed his desire to pay an official visit as soon as new dates could be set, the spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity, in keeping with British practice. Thatcher replied that the Soviet leader would be welcome whenever he chose to visit, the spokeswoman said.

Wiring fault found in British Boeing

LONDON (AP) — A British airline found crossed wires in a Boeing 757 during checks of cargo compartment warning systems following the discovery of wiring problems in two 757s in the United States. The Civil Aviation Authority said Sunday. The fault, in a Boeing operated by Air 2000, was caused by switched plugs and was immediately rectified, the aviation authority said. The British airline flies from Gatwick airport south of London to Orlando, Florida and Mombasa, Kenya. The aircraft has been cleared to resume service. No faults have been reported so far on the 39 other Boeing 757s operated by four British airlines. The aviation authority ordered checks on the cargo compartment fire warning systems of Boeing 757s Friday after an alert from the United States.

Poets urge seizure of Carbide assets

BHOPAL, India (R) — Poets from more than a dozen countries have asked the U.S. government to confiscate the assets of the Union Carbide Corporation to provide compensation for the victims of the Bhopal gas disaster. Organisers of an International Poetry Festival in Bhopal said Monday that 23 poets signed a letter making the demand. More than 3,300 people have died from the 1984 Bhopal disaster in which poisonous gas seeped from a Union Carbide pesticide plant. The poets said in a letter to the White House that confiscation of Connecticut-based Union Carbide's assets would ensure speedy compensation for the victims of the world's worst industrial accident. An Indian government suit seeking \$3 billion in compensation from Union Carbide has resulted so far only in an order for \$290 million in interim compensation, against which Union Carbide is appealing.

Premadasa cancels ceremonies

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa has cancelled all ceremonies connected with next month's anniversary of Sri Lankan independence in an attempt to save government funds for an anti-poverty programme, state-run radio said Monday. The radio said the Feb. 4 military parades, gun salutes and processions of schoolchildren were cancelled for the first time in the country's history on Premadasa's orders. The day marks the 41st anniversary of independence from British rule, and the annual celebration draws thousands of spectators. Premadasa has asked people from outside Colombo not to come to the capital since there will be no ceremonies, the radio said. Instead, the president has scheduled a number of religious ceremonies from Feb. 1-5 to mark the occasion, it said.